



INFORMATIONAL LETTER

Transmittal:	24-INF-01
To:	Executive Directors of Voluntary Provider Agencies Developmental Disabilities State Operations Offices (DDSOO) Directors Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices (DDRO) Directors
Issuing OPWDD Office:	Division of Statewide Services
Date:	January 11, 2024
Subject:	Health Advisory: NYS Department of Health Recommendation for Masking in Healthcare and Residential Facilities
Suggested Distribution:	Agency Administrators and Management Staff Clinical Staff and Clinical Staff Supervisors
Contact:	OPWDD Director of Nursing and Health Services nursingandhealthservices@opwdd.ny.gov
Attachments:	Health Advisory: NYS Department of Health Recommends Masking in Healthcare and Residential Facilities

Related ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Regulatory Authority	MHL & Other Statutory Authority	Records Retention
12/4/22: Management of Communicable Respiratory Diseases 6/20/23: Revised Protocols for the Implementation of Isolation for Individuals Who Test Positive for COVID-19 and Precautions for Individuals Exposed to COVID-19 Residing in OPWDD Certified Facilities 6/20/23: Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the "Revised Protocols for the				

Implementation of Isolation for Individuals who Test Positive for COVID-19 and Precautions for Individuals Exposed to COVID-19 Residing in OPWDD Certified Facilities” 6/20/23: Revised Protocols for Personnel in Clinical and Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection				
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Purpose:

This informational letter is to notify OPWDD providers that the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) issued a Health Advisory on January 8, 2024 to all healthcare providers, hospitals, nursing homes, adult care facilities, pharmacists, and local health departments recommending masking in healthcare and residential facilities.

Background:

As per the January 8, 2024, the NYSDOH Health Advisory was disseminated "...to alert healthcare providers and facilities to substantial increases in cases of influenza and COVID-19, at least partially driven by an emerging SARS-CoV-2 variant, and to recommend that healthcare and residential facilities advocate strongly for the use of masks within their facility to prevent transmission and ensure a healthy workforce."

Recommendation:

OPWDD encourages providers to review and consider the recommendations outlined in the January 8, 2024 NYSDOH Health Advisory Recommending Masking in Healthcare and Residential Facilities. Please see the attached Health Advisory which may also be found at: https://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2024/docs/2024-01-08_masking_advisory.pdf