

FROM: Tom McAlvanah

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Hi All,

There is some progress in getting the approved waivers through the Appendix K as well as the filing of the 1135 Waiver to get the next period. We will look at that to evaluate as it was just released. OPW remains upbeat about closing this agreement with CMS.

I will send, under a separate cover, our correspondence with the Governor that was sent earlier as budget items and placeholders for our sector during this crisis and on the eve of the budget being finalized. We also sent a letter to OPWDD about the level of financial support needed and directed at more specific items on our list and certainly yours, from 'hazard pay' for staff, to the stoppage of recoupment payments to the removal of the 2% planned cut in July. Will send shortly.

PPEs: we discussed the continued difficulty that providers are facing, and OPW is well aware. They asked that if providers are able to order PPEs from the local County OEM offices, not in NYC of course, they ask if you get a ticket# that is assigned to your request in case they get inquiries from those local OEMs. They also suggested that your requested are very specific in terms of what products you are ordering, not just masks or gloves, but what kind, the quantity and other projections about what you need. The more detailed your requests, the better able you are to get the desired supplies.

Notifications about new or suspected cases of exposure: OPW asked that all new cases or other reports of emergencies be reported not only to the Justice Center and IRMA, but to the IMU. The mailbox is: opwdd.sm.incident.management@opwdd.ny.gov.

Yes, it is that long.

Emergency Housing Plan: a number of PAs and CCOs are working with OPW to consider the likely events of individuals needing alternate placement due to quarantine issue and individuals living with families with similar concerns. As you may have seen, OPW is trying to get a handle about the amount of available space available at empty Day Habs, respite and other available space. More on that to come.

COVID-19 Contact Tracking Form: yes this long burdensome form was the subject of much discussion and requests for reduction. DQI is advocating with DOH to make changes and hears us loud and clear.

Visitation Guidance to be issued: as I write this, the ADM was already sent. It appears to suggest that no one should be leaving the residence during this time unless families can maintain the individual for the duration of the crisis. It also makes room for people to return if that have been home prior to this date, with appropriate screening. No comment at this time.

State and Federal agency visits to residential facilities: we are hearing that local county health officials and OSHA staff have been seen visiting our residences, and in the case of the Albany County DOH, wanted to shut the residence down. OPW intervened and would like to be kept informed of such visits. They will also speak with DOH to help get some coordination and clarification about these visits.

Just released this afternoon

As mentioned, Interim Guidance on the Suspension of Individual Community Outings and Home Visits

Interim Billing Guidance for Day Habilitation

Management of COVID-19 in Family Care Homes