

From: Tom McAlvanah  
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Today the meeting saw the Commissioner provide an overview of the actions taken by OPWDD since the beginning of the pandemic in March. There will be no attempt to summarize their actions here. We will ask if OPW will providing a summary to all at a later date. The Commissioner spoke about their active processes of public outreach and communication. He spoke to the lack of testing, a deeper analysis of data and the still difficult process of securing PPEs. He continued to emphasize that washing hands and facility hygiene were the best methods of preventing community spread. He then spoke to OPWDD's commitment to mitigate any future outbreaks.

Parents on the call then began a discussion on the need for testing. The Commissioner addressed the concerns repeating that it is DOH who drives such testing decisions, not OPW. Referrals for testing must still come from the local Health Departments.

The discussion continued on data, and questions posed to him about the rates of hospitalizations that may or may not be bending. The Commissioner could not comment as that layer of data is not available.

Finally, Abiba spoke to the Fiscal intermediaries and the PPE availability. The expectation is that the FIs purchase and supply staff with the PPEs. Most of the FIs already recognized that responsibility, and no major issues were noted.

The meeting ended at that point.

In a follow up call with the Provider Associations and CCOs, it was decided that NYDA will put together a list of questions coming from the providers that address the shortcomings in the rollout of the Draft IRA Enhanced rates.

Many providers saw errors in the number of individuals listed in their calculation. Per the regulation, you can submit a challenge to the rates given as there are numerous calculation errors they are talking about. However, the rates are not final, so I would hold off until we get some further clarification and the rates are finalized.

The Attestations that are due tomorrow, still not seen by anyone just yet. We are following up. (The 2% from 1/1 and 4/1 were not included in the Enhanced Rates. They will come at a later date).

Later this week, some of the PA Reps will be meeting with Kevin Valenchis and Donna Cater who will share the development of the rate package and answer our questions, well some of them anyway.