

FROM: Tom McAlvanah

DATE: 4/28/2021

Data:

As of April 21, 2021, there have been 10,413 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases statewide. Of those that tested positive, 7,064 individuals resided in certified residential programs. A total of 650 individuals statewide who tested positive have passed. A total of 14,592 staff were reported as confirmed COVID-19 positive.

As of April 28, 2021, there have been 10,486 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases statewide. Of those that tested positive, 7,083 individuals resided in certified residential programs. A total of 650 individuals statewide who tested positive have passed. A total of 14,763 staff were reported as confirmed COVID-19 positive.

The trends remain fairly consistent on locations and other demographics for the infection rate.

Vaccination Data:

There is continued but slow progress in the number of people who have received at least one vaccination. For certified Residences...82.5% of individuals living in these settings are vaccinated.

9% of people living in these settings have declined the vaccine. For staff in certified Residences, 29.4% of staff in these settings are vaccinated. 37.9% of staff from these settings have declined the vaccine. Slight improvements in those numbers from two weeks ago.

For people living in the community...29.3% of individuals are vaccinated; 12.2% have declined the vaccine. For staff working in those settings, 29.6% are vaccinated; 17.2% have declined.

As you can surmise, the data for people in the community is not complete.

Public Reporting:

OPWDD is directing everyone to its website for updated data on COVID Guidance and other related data about services, funding and other aspects of NYS Medicaid payment structure.

Guidance Updates:

Willow referenced the many correspondences she received about the conflicting directives coming from the CDC, NYS DOH and the lagging rules still in effect for OPWDD certified facilities. These include areas such as Day Program flexibilities and quarantining when vaccinated among others. She reported that they are working with State DOH to align what is in force within the State to our facilities. However, there are still some obstacles to getting people out into communities that were raised. Among them were the continuing restrictions on transportation at 50% capacity on buses. Willow referenced the limitation on busing for schools, and we will not see any lifting of those restrictions for Day services transportation until the State relaxes those limitations.

I referenced the correspondence that the DDROs were sending to Day Services agencies as of yesterday, Wednesday. The requests were sent to each agency asking them for their anticipated date of return to full capacity for all individuals receiving certified Day Services in each of their congregate settings, all in by COB Friday, 4/30. After reviewing all of the variables that make that determination a questionable request, Abiba reiterated that OPWDD was attempting to capture an understanding as to the levels of return we can all anticipate should the restrictions be lifted. While I suggested that the intent of the request was understandable, the amount of lead time to assess each person's desires, their family's comfort level, the staffing capacity for each program and the transportation ramp up makes such a determination a complex undertaking, not something that can be done in two days. Abiba will review the turnaround time issue....

The next question referenced OPWDD's intent to move forward with the scheduled cuts to the vacancy and occupancy factors in residences on 5/1. Willow responded that while the cuts were moving forward, she also said that there are discussions at DOH that are considering a number of factors including the public comments about the cuts they received.

So yes, plan that the cuts will go through, but we will continue to press the issue both in our PR efforts as well as through internal discussions. We will keep you posted.