

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am writing to inform you of steps that the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is taking to ensure the safety of all people with developmental disabilities who participate in day program services.

OPWDD is hereby directing the temporary suspension of services at all Day Habilitation, Day Treatment, and Prevocational Services across the state effective no later than Tuesday, March 17, 2020 by 5 p.m.

We recognize that unexpected changes in scheduling, staffing, or a temporary suspension of day program services all represent significant hardships for families who support their loved ones in their homes. Day program services for people with developmental disabilities allow families to meet their other needs, including earning a living and providing care to other family members.

OPWDD has [asked providers of day program services](#) to provide alternative programming for families that will be negatively affected by the suspension of services. Additional guidance that has been provided by OPWDD to our voluntary providers is available on our website at https://opwdd.ny.gov/news_and_publications/coronavirus-guidance-opwdd-service-providers.

The health and well-being of the people we mutually support is of utmost importance and OPWDD will continue to monitor the situation and provide additional updates as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,
Theodore Kastner, MD, MS
Commissioner