

Title: COVID-19 Community Inclusion Guidelines – 7-23-20

Review: This policy will be reviewed monthly with all direct support employees, or more frequently should revisions occur.

Policy: The objective of these guidelines is to provide parameters for individuals served and employees to participate and enjoy in activities in community settings, while remaining safe given the risks associated with COVID19. There are **three stages** of allowable Community Inclusion Activities that have been defined below. These guidelines outline the expectations and parameters in each stage and will provide guidance to staff on how to support people receiving services in safely accessing the community while mitigating his/her risks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Individuals currently under droplet precautions, quarantine or isolation due to COVID19 related concerns cannot access the community no matter what stage, unless for emergent medical needs. Any individual served or employee who had close or proximate contact with a confirmed positive person within the last 14 days, anyone displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19 such as cough, fever over 100, shortness of breath/trouble breathing, chills, muscle pain, new or worsening headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell must not participate in the community outing.

Group outings will be limited to a maximum of 8 people, inclusive of employees. Groups must be limited to individuals served within the same home or day program group.

Community inclusion will be limited to 1 outing per day per person.

Managers, Shift Supervisors or Support Staff will discuss plans with the individuals involved prior to the outing into the community and help them to be prepared to enjoy the outing safely.

Expectations while in community settings will include:

- **Mask use**
- **Social distancing**
- **Regular hand washing/sanitizing**
- **Avoiding crowded spaces / locations**

Stage I (OPWDD Directed - No Community Inclusion) – The only exceptions will include:

1. Medically necessary appointments as determined by the medical department in consultation with the provider and individual/family/advocate
2. Director approved individualized exceptions due to a person's emotional health needs
 - a. Exceptions can only be person specific and activity specific and must be approved by the Residential, Day Program or Family Services Director
 - b. Acceptable exceptions = going for a ride, going for a walk in secluded area, going to a main agency site for an activity
 - c. Director can approve a recurring activity for a person (e.g.: weekly 30 minute scenic ride)
3. Expectations to be met include: mask use by all (unless medically unable), social distancing throughout as much as possible, hand washing/sanitizing before and after outing, hand sanitizer available within any vehicle used, clean/disinfect vehicle upon return

Stage II (Region must be in Reopening Phase 4) – Low risk community activities will be permitted during Stage II. Individuals served will not be able to enter community business establishments during Stage II.

1. Allowable Community Activities will include:
 - a. Rides, walks and hikes
 - b. 1 on 1 bike rides
 - c. Drive through food establishments
 - d. Curbside pick-up at restaurants
 - e. Barbershop / Hair Salon – **supervisor will contact business to learn expectations prior to appointment**
 - f. Drive In movies
 - g. Picnics
 - h. Outdoor Farmer’s Market, Vegetable/Fruit stands
 - i. Outdoor church service
 - j. Indoor church services – **only if person supported wears mask throughout service**
2. Expectations to be met include: mask use by all (unless medically unable), social distancing throughout as much as possible, hand washing/sanitizing before and after outing, hand sanitizer available within any vehicle used, clean/disinfect vehicle upon return

Stage III (Region must be in Reopening Phase 4) – Moderate risk community activities will be permitted during Stage III.

1. Allowable Community Activities will include:
 - a. Visits to museums or art centers
 - b. Attend outdoor or indoor church service
 - c. Outdoor dining at restaurant
 - d. Brief in store shopping (less than 5 minute duration)
 - e. Outdoor musical performances or plays
 - f. Going to a beach or local pool (provided life guard is on duty)
2. Expectations to be met include: mask use by all (unless medically unable), social distancing throughout as much as possible, hand washing/sanitizing before and after outing, hand sanitizer available within any vehicle used, clean/disinfect vehicle upon return

Support staff will ensure that all required documentation is completed for each community inclusion experience using the **“COVID19 Community Inclusion Log”**. This will minimally include:

1. Names of all individuals and employees who participated in each community outing
2. Confirmation that each person passed the daily health screen and temperature check
3. The location and address where the community outing occurred
4. The start and stop time for the community outing
5. The agency vehicle identification number
6. Confirmation that the vehicle used was cleaned and disinfected following the community outing

Individuals with “Community Independence” must be supported as follows:

1. Provided with hand sanitizer and face covering prior to any outing experience
2. Provided support to help the person fully understand the risks and responsibilities associated with any community exposure/outing
3. Support staff will assist the individual in filling in the required information as outlined in the **“COVID-19 Community Inclusion Log”** prior to and after the outing occurs

Approved by: _____ **Date:** _____