

# 2022-09 Heaven's Hands Post Public Health Emergency Protocols

## <u>Background:</u>

• On September 7th & 14th, 2022 OPWDD released revised protocols, consistent with recommendations from the CDC and NYS Governor Hochul, for mask wearing and implementation of isolation and quarantine of individuals in OPWDD-certified facilities following COVID-19 infection.

### Updated Guidance (Effective Monday, September 19th, 2022):

- Heaven's Hands Community Services, Inc. (HHCS) will follow all current OPWDD protocols regarding COVID-19 rules, regulations, and guidance;
  - Heaven's Hands Community Services will no longer require mask-wearing by any staff or people we support in any of our certified Day Habilitation programs or vehicles unless you fall under a specific situation within the Quarantine and Isolation guidance below, such as close contact, exposure, symptomatic, etc. (see Revised Protocols for the Implementation of Isolation and Quarantine of Individuals in OPWDD Certified Facilities Following COVID-19 Infection 2022-09-14)
    - Any staff or people we support who wish to wear masks are encouraged to still do so and masks will still be available at all locations.
  - Heaven's Hands Community Services expects that when providing services in the homes of people we support, we will continue to respect the wishes of those families in regard to mask-wearing, in the same fashion that we would in regard to cultural and religious accommodations.
- Heaven's Hands Community Services, Inc. will no longer require the Health Assessment Screening Tool but we will continue to stress hand washing, regular cleaning of all areas, self-monitoring and self-reporting of signs and symptoms of illness.
  - If any people we support exhibit or report any signs or symptoms of illness, staff should do a temperature check, document, and report to their supervisor
    - For people we support who are sent home, a minor occurrence form must be completed
  - Anyone with a temperature of 100.0F or above will be sent home and encouraged to contact their physician
- Any person we support or staff who has been exposed to COVID-19 should begin wearing a mask as soon as the exposure has been determined. Mask wearing should continue for 10 full days.
  - Note that day 0 is the day of the last exposure to COVID-19. Day 1 is the first full day after the last exposure. Those who are exposed should be monitored for symptoms and if they begin to exhibit symptoms, should immediately isolate.
    - For greater details on Isolation and Quarantine Protocols, please refer to Revised Protocols for the Implementation of Isolation and Quarantine of Individuals in OPWDD Certified Facilities Following COVID-19 Infection (2022-09-14)

#### Ongoing COVID-19 Precautions:

- Consistent with local/regional requirements, and OPWDD guidance, all staff must be fully vaccinated with proof submitted to Human Resources.
- All high-touch surfaces will continue to be cleaned and disinfected consistent with CDC guidelines.
- All agency vehicles will be cleaned/disinfected regularly.
- If a person were to become ill, they should be sent home to follow up with a doctor and contact their immediate supervisor before returning. If the doctor recommended a COVID test, they cannot return



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before receiving a negative result. If a positive result is received, current CDC/OPWDD guidelines will be followed.