



We're on your side and at your side.

Heaven's Hands Post NY State of Emergency Guidance for Program Operations

Background:

- On May 19th, 2021, consistent with the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New York State (NYS) aligned the mandates for mask wearing and social distancing to eliminate the requirements for most vaccinated individuals.
- On June 25th, 2021, the State of Emergency declared by Governor Andrew Cuomo, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, was allowed to expire. All associated Executive Orders and most COVID-19 restrictions will also be lifted throughout the State.

Post Emergency Guidance (Effective Monday July 19th, 2021):

- Heaven's Hands Community Services, Inc. (HHCS) will resume all pre-pandemic activities in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations, which still may include any applicable COVID-19 rules, regulations or guidance issued by OPWDD, CDC or HHCS.
- Heaven's Hands Community Services will return to full operational capacity to the extent possible. In addition capacity limitations will be lifted during transportation if all people we support on the vehicle are vaccinated.

Ongoing COVID-19 Precautions:

- Consistent with CDC, local/regional, and OPWDD guidance, fully vaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks or social distance within HHCS programs, but can if preferred. However, all people we support (to the extent they can medically tolerate one) and staff, regardless of vaccination status, while being transported will be required to wear masks. Be prepared to provide proof of vaccination as falsely attesting that you have been vaccinated will result in termination.
- Per CDC and OPWDD guidance, people we support and staff who are unvaccinated are required to continue to wear masks. If a person we support can not medically tolerate a mask, they should be encouraged to socially distance to the extent possible while indoors. If anyone chooses to not disclose vaccination status, they are to be considered unvaccinated.
- Unvaccinated visitors to any HHCS locations must continue to wear masks and maintain social distance to the extent possible for the duration of the visit. Vaccinated visitors must show proof to enter without a mask.
- All high touch surfaces will continue to be cleaned and disinfected consistent with CDC guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
- All agency vehicles will be disinfected on a daily basis.
- The 2021-07 Health Screening Tool will be utilized on a daily basis and replace the 2020-11 version. All staff, people we support, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, must be screened daily.
- HHCS will continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 consistent with prior OPWDD guidance.
- Proof or acknowledgement of vaccination status should continue to be collected by Program Managers (people we support and staff) and shared with Human Resources (staff only).
- All community habilitation and respite staff will follow the same mask guidelines stated above based on vaccination status. However, if working in a family's home, the respect and wishes of that family must be met for the duration of that service period. (i.e. A staff is vaccinated but the family requests a mask be worn; then a mask must be worn)
- 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 before receiving a negative result. If a positive result is received, current CDC guidelines will be followed.

