

Dear Members:

On last week's ASAP Provider call with Dr. Manseau, a question was asked about guidance for provider employees who may be more vulnerable to COVID-19 due to health conditions and/or age. The guidance below should be helpful to those providers who still have questions:

Employees Who Need to Take Extra Precautions

Providers should reduce employees risk of exposure to COVID-19, while making sure to be compliant with relevant Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) regulations. This means following [CDC](#) and the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA) guidance for reducing workplace exposure for all employees.

Providers should consider moving employees who are in the category of the CDC's [People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions](#) from direct care for patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 where possible. Telepractice services should also be considered where practical. Also consider offering employees duties that minimize their contact with patients and other employees, if agreed by the healthcare worker.

All employees who must work with any patients practice social distancing (6 feet). Interactions taking place less than 6 feet should be limited to under 10 minutes where possible.

All employees should wear face coverings when interacting with both patients and other employees who are not known to be COVID-19 positive.

In cases where an employee must care for a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient. The recommended personal protective equipment be worn. Guidance for this can be found here:

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings

Providers should comply with the [NYS OASAS: Preliminary Guidance to OASAS Certified Programs about Addiction Treatment, Recovery, and Prevention Services during New York Forward](#)

Additional guidance can be found here: The [CDC Workplaces During the COVID-19 Pandemic Workplace Decision Tool](#)