



**TO:** RHY Drop-In Center Providers  
**FROM:** DYCD RHY Services  
**DATE:** March 19, 2020  
**RE:** COVID 19: NYS State of Emergency Guidance

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The City of New York Department of Health (NYC DOH) has issued [Interim Covid-19 Guidance for Homeless Shelters](#). Providers must review this guidance, and make assessments regarding how to implement these guidelines based on the specific needs of your facility and population served.

Item 5 of that guidance is especially useful in preventing the introduction of COVID-19 into drop-in centers.

DYCD has drafted a model policy for Providers to post at drop-in centers, as well as hand to youth individually, which is attached hereto. In the event that a youth presenting with symptoms of illness refuses to isolate, the provider may consider asking the youth to leave the facility. However, any decision to ask a youth to leave risks further spread of the virus and providers should make every effort to serve youth in the drop-in center under isolation where possible.

**ATTACH:** Notice to Visitors of Updated Protocols During State of Emergency

## Runaway and Homeless Youth Services Drop-In Centers

### **Notice of Updated Procedures During State of Emergency**

The State of New York is currently in a state of emergency due to the novel coronavirus, Covid-19. All DYCD runaway and homeless youth (RHY) programs are following guidelines issued by federal, state and local governments to keep residents safe during this time.

We will follow New York City Department of Health (DOH) guidance on assessing whether a visitor is at risk of contracting or spreading Covid-19.

We want all of the visitors and staff to be safe during the coronavirus pandemic. In order to continue providing services safely for both visitors and staff, new procedures have been implemented. These procedures are likely to change. We urge flexibility and cooperation.

For all visitors:

- If you appear ill when you arrive or start to feel ill, please notify a staff member immediately. We will ask you questions based on DOH guidelines about your symptoms. You must answer these questions fully and honestly.
- If we determine that you should be isolated in order to continue receiving services, we will explain that process to you. You must comply with the decision to be isolated, to the best of our ability. If you do not comply with our decision to isolate, you may be asked to leave the drop-in center.
- If you need medical care beyond what can be provided to you here at the program, we will work with you to ensure you are referred to appropriate medical care.

These guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.