



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

Department of Health

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

New York State Department of Health

12/21/2022

Alert: Strong Winter Storm (Thursday 12/22- Monday 12/26)

Guidance for Hospitals, Diagnostic & Treatment Centers, Dialysis Centers, Nursing Homes, Homecare Agencies, Hospice, and Adult Care Facilities

The National Weather Service has issued Winter Storm and High Wind Watches, as a strong winter storm system is expected to bring hazardous conditions including potentially significant amounts of snow, high winds and dangerously cold temperatures, which may down trees and power lines, and create very dangerous travel conditions to the Western and Central region(s), between Thursday 12/22 and Monday, 12/26). Damaging winds of 60+ mph are forecasted for the Tug Hill region, with significant snowfall and blizzard/whiteout type conditions Friday into the weekend.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is reminding providers to take the following precautions to prepare:

Prior to the storm, facilities should check supplies and ensure that adequate staffing will be available, and supplies of food, medical supplies and bedding will be sufficient for the duration of the storm if resupply is unavailable. Facilities should also review emergency facility plans and test emergency standby power to ensure systems are in good working order. If your facility does not have facility wide electric power generation abilities, facilities should consider appropriately re-locating patients that have needs consistent with electric power generation (Bipaps, accommodative devices, electronic monitoring etc.) within the facility. During and following the storm, providers needing assistance should make requests through their local Office of Emergency Management (OEM)/Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Facilities in need of evacuation should immediately notify their NYSDOH Regional Office. Regional office business hour contacts, and 24/7 Duty Officer contact information is available below. Facilities should also review emergency plans and confirm 24/7 contact information for key staff in case emergent communication is needed.

Critical Communications During Emergencies:

Every facility should confirm that all systems necessary for disaster planning and response are supported by generator power. The following key Health Commerce System (HCS) data systems must be used by the provider when applicable during the emergency:

- The NYSDOH Communications Directory –all business and emergency contact information must be updated and accurate to assure alerts and notifications are received by the facility.



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- The Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS) - HERDS surveys may be conducted to capture important information regarding a facility's status during an emergency.
- eFINDS Patient and Resident tracking application: In the event that evacuation of hospitals, nursing homes or adult care facilities becomes necessary, the NYSDOH is reminding facilities that use of the eFINDS system will be required to track the movement of all patients and residents between sending (evacuating) and receiving facilities.

All facilities should know where their eFINDS supplies are stored, (i.e., barcode scanner, wrist bands, and paper tracking logs) and assure that staff who have been trained on the use of the system are ready and available to perform this function. If facilities have questions or need assistance with eFINDS use, please send email to: efinds@health.ny.gov.

Roster of Contact Information for NYSDOH Divisions

ALL Divisions Off Hours (5:00 pm to 8:00 am, all weekends and holidays)- NYSDOH Duty Officer
866-881-2809

<i>Division of Hospitals and Diagnostic & Treatment Centers (includes Community Health Centers)</i>		
Region	Title	Phone Number
Capital District	Regional Division Director	518.408.5329
Central New York	Regional Division Director	315.477.8592
Metropolitan Area	Regional Division Director	212.417.5990
Western New York	Regional Division Director	716.847.4310 (Buffalo)
		585.423.8141 (Rochester)
<i>Division of Nursing Homes and ICF/IID Surveillance</i>		
Region	Title	Phone Number
Capital District	Regional Division Director	518.408.5372
Central New York	Regional Division Director	315.477.8472
Metropolitan Area- NYC	Regional Division Director	212.417.4999
Western New York	Regional Division Director	716.847.4320 (Buffalo);
		585.423.8020 (Rochester)
<i>Adult Care Facility and Assisted Living Surveillance Program</i>		



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Region	Title	Phone Number
Capital District	Regional Division Director	518.408.5287
Central New York	Regional Division Director	315.477.8472
Metropolitan Area	Regional Division Director	212.417.4440
		631.851.3098 (Long Island)
Western New York	Regional Division Director	585.423.8185
<i>Division of Home and Community Based Services</i>		
Region	Title	Phone Number
<i>Capital District</i>	Regional Division Director	518.408.5287
<i>Central New York</i>	Regional Division Director	315.477.8472
<i>Metropolitan Area</i>	Regional Division Director	212.417.4921
<i>Western New York</i>	Regional Division Director	716.847.4320 (Buffalo);
		585.423.8121(Rochester)