

HEALTH ADVISORY

Alert: Strong Winter Storm Saturday night into Sunday (1/6/24-1/7/24)

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

The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Watch, as a strong winter storm system is expected to bring hazardous conditions including large accumulations of snow and high winds, which may down trees and power lines, and create very dangerous travel conditions to the Capital District and North Country region(s), between Saturday January 6th and Sunday January 7th. Forecasters are calling for 6"-12" with possible snowfall rates of 1" per hour at times with wind gusts of 35 miles per hour.

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 of de-icing material and ensure that an adequate supply of snow removal equipment (ex. shovels) is available. During and following the storm, providers needing assistance should make requests for assistance 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.

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 where 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.
- 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>		
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
Capital District	Regional Division Director	518.408.5287
Central New York	Regional Division Director	315.477.8472



Department of Health

<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)