



Ned Lamont
Governor

State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

To: All DDS Providers, CCH Providers and DDS Public Sector Programs

From: Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner; Timothy Baldwin, DDS Fire Chief

Cc: Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; David David, Director of Service Development and Support, Jackson Pierre-Louis, Division Director of Quality and Systems Improvement; Regional Directors; Assistant Regional Directors; CCH Managers; Anthony Bruno, DPH Fire Safety; William Abbott, State Fire Marshall Office

Date: April 30, 2020

Re: Fire Drill Guidance during COVID-19

In collaboration with the Office of the State Fire Marshall, DDS and DPH (ICF-IDD program) the following guidance is being issued regarding residential settings (CLA, CRS and CCH) supported or funded by DDS:

If a residential setting or a CLA/ICF-IDD setting has positive cases and/or presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 for individuals, the fire drill procedure will be altered for those homes and routine monthly fire drills will not occur as traditionally done at those settings during the duration of the pandemic while there is active COVID-19 case in the home.

In lieu of traditional fire drills, agency administration shall review the current operation and identify any changes or enhancements that need to be done to assure efficient and timely evacuation and then issue training on fire safety procedures and fire evacuation plans specific to that location and will be reviewed with the staff on a monthly basis. Providers will document this monthly training for staff and will keep that documentation on site.

Agencies are required to share this communication and discuss with their local Fire Marshal if they are not conducting a monthly fire drill, as applicable.

For Community Companion Homes (CCH)- licensed providers shall look at their current evacuation plans to ensure they are still appropriate and make the necessary changes to accommodate a physical evacuation for a true fire emergency. Training will only need to occur for the CCH provider and designee during the quarter of April-June 2020 as CCH regulations only stipulate quarterly drills.

Phone: 860 418-6100 ♦ TDD 860 418-6079 ♦ Fax: 860 418-6001
460 Capitol Avenue ♦ Hartford, Connecticut 06106
www.ct.gov/dds ♦ e-mail: ddsct.co@ct.gov
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

This guidance will serve as a general guidance for CLA/CCH licensing regulations 17a-227-12b and 17a-227-30(a)(2) to waive the monthly/quarterly fire drill requirement for these licensed homes.

The guidance is applicable to all homes that have individuals with positive and presumptive positive COVID-19 cases from April-June 2020. This guidance is applicable to CRS settings and the quality service review (QSR) process. If a home or setting does not have positive cases of COVID-19, the regulations for monthly and/or quarterly fire drills will continue as stipulated in the CLA/CCH regulations or QSR interpretive guidelines.

Thank you.