



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

To: DDS Providers and DDS Public Sector Settings

From: Timothy Baldwin, DDS Fire Chief

Cc: Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; Crescentino Secchiaroli, Public Regional Director; David David, Director of Service Development and Support

Date: November 30, 2020

RE: Updated DDS Fire Safety Guidance During COVID-19

As the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) continues to monitor the statewide increase in COVID-19 cases, the following changes regarding fire safety will go into effect as of today, November 30, 2020.

- DDS residential settings that require a local Fire Marshal certificate will have those inspections suspended until February 9, 2021 or until further direction is issued.
- The servicing of quarterly sprinkler systems and routine servicing of fire panel/alarm systems will also be suspended until February 9, 2021 or until further direction is issued.

In the meantime, DDS is requiring that all providers remain diligent in ensuring that the sprinkler systems and the fire alarm/panel systems are in good working order. This includes continuing with routine checks, at least once a month, on the sprinkler pressure gauge system to ensure that it falls within normal limits and that the water tank level is full. Further, the fire alarm panel should be checked to ensure there is no trouble alarm signals or other signals that identify a problem. If these checks identify that either the sprinkler system or the fire alarm panel is not functioning properly, then the system needs to be serviced immediately by a contracted provider.

General fire safety practices should be followed during this crisis, and a greater awareness should be demonstrated by all staff to ensure fire safety for all.

Thank you.