



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health

HEALTHCARE FACILITY NOTICE/ORDER
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: Adult Day Care (ADC) Providers
Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Providers
PACE Providers

FROM: LDH Office of Public Health
Joseph Kanter, M.D.
State Health Officer

RE: State Health Officer Order

DATE: July 27, 2021

EFFECTIVE DATES: This Emergency Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further notice from the State Health Officer.

RATIONALE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY:

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States, effective January 27, 2020. Pursuant to the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, R.S. 29:760, *et seq.*, a state of public health emergency resulting from the outbreak of "coronavirus disease 2019" ("COVID-19") was declared to exist in the entire State of Louisiana by Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020.

The COVID-19 outbreak in Louisiana continues. Measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

The State Health Officer expressly finds that the measures ordered herein are necessary to help control and prevent further spread of COVID-19, a communicable, contagious, and infectious disease that represent a serious and imminent threat to the public health.

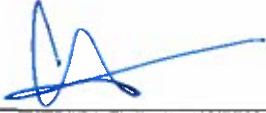
NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me by L.R.S. 40:1 et seq., particularly La. R.S. 40:4(A)(13) and La. R.S. 40:5(A)(2), I, Joseph Kanter, M.D., State Health Officer, do hereby issue the following emergency order:

- (1) All ADC, ADHC and PACE providers in Louisiana are mandated and directed to reinstate universal masking, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, in their facility for all staff, clients/participants and visitors. This is a temporary measure to protect the health and safety of all staff, clients/participants and visitors due to the current surge of COVID-19 cases in Louisiana.**
 - (a) A Client/Participant DOES NOT need to wear a mask when they are eating or if the client/participant has a medical condition that precludes masking.**
- (2) Any ADC, ADHC, or PACE provider may impose stricter policies than mandated in this Order if the facility chooses, provided that the facility have a policy and procedure in place to address such restrictions.**
- (3) This State Health Officer Order replaces and supersedes any previously issued State Health Officer orders/notices to ADC, ADHC, and PACE providers regarding masking of all staff, clients/participants and visitors.**
- (4) This State Health Officer Order does not mandate that any ADC, ADHC or PACE provider re-open.**
- (5) This State Health Officer Order does not mandate that any client or participant return to an ADC, ADHC or PACE Center.**
- (6) Any ADC, ADHC, or PACE provider that provides transportation to clients/participants shall follow the same protocols as identified in Number (1) above while any clients, participants and staff are in the vehicle.**
- (7) If local ordinances and/or COVID-19 restrictions are more stringent than this order, the ADC, ADHC, and PACE providers shall follow any local ordinances and/or COVID-19 restrictions.**

Signed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on July 27, 2021.


Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

Concurrence:



Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
LDH Secretary

7/27/21

DATE