



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health

HEALTHCARE FACILITY NOTICE/ORDER
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: All licensed Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD)¹
All licensed Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs)

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

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.

¹ These facilities are also known as "intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities."

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 Intermediate Care Facilities for Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DDs) licensed in Louisiana that are NOT also licensed as nursing facilities and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) are mandated and directed to reinstate universal masking, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, in the facility for all staff, residents and visitors. This is a temporary measure to protect the health and safety of all staff, residents and visitors due to the current surge of COVID-19 cases in Louisiana.

- (a) Each ICF/DD facility, and PRTF provider shall revise its current policy and procedure to reflect this new requirement.**
- (b) Residents DO NOT need to wear a mask when they are in their own room without visitors, while eating or if the resident has a medical condition that precludes masking.**

(2) This State Health Officer Order replaces and supersedes any previously issued State Health Officer orders/notices to licensed ICF/DDs, and licensed PRTFs regarding masking of all staff, residents and visitors.

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


Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

Concurrence:



Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
LDH Secretary


DATE