



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Health Standards Section

Memorandum

To: Louisiana Health Care Facilities

From: Louisiana Department of Health - Health Standards Section

Re: Requirements for Reoccupying and Reopening Following Emergency Events

Date: August 2, 2024

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Health Standards Section (HSS), has established the following procedures for the repatriation of patients, residents, and clients of Louisiana hospitals, nursing homes, intermediate care facilities for developmentally disabled clients, and other licensed healthcare facilities. We are committed to the re-entry of special needs patients, residents, and clients as swiftly as possible to ensure safety and comfort, as well as to lessen the surge populations in health care facilities throughout the state.

This commitment requires that health care providers are forthcoming with the state about the status and condition of their facilities. While we do not want to impede the reopening and repatriation process, HSS will hold facilities responsible for the conditions to which they return patients, residents, or clients. This memorandum applies to any healthcare facility impacted by the event and supersedes any previously issued guidelines. Each facility will also need to comply with requirements of the LDH/Office of Public Health (OPH) Sanitarian Services and the Health Care Division of the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

A facility shall not repatriate the licensed location until it receives the determination by HSS, authorizing repatriation.

The procedures outlined below shall be followed in order to ensure the safest and quickest return to the healthcare facility.

- I. Complete the LDH Health Standards Assessment Form including the applicable section for your facility type for additional program specific requirements;
- II. Complete the LDH OPH Health Care Facility Re-Opening Request; and
- III. Submit the above mentioned completed forms to HSSEP@la.gov.

After review of the submitted documentation, HSS shall make a determination for one of the following actions:

- I. An approval to re-open/re-occupy without an on-site inspection by HSS;
- II. A determination of what on-site inspection(s) will be required before an approval to reopen will be granted. Such inspections may include OPH, OSFM and HSS; or
- III. Denial of re-opening.

The purpose of these inspections is to assure that the facility is in compliance with licensing standards including, but not limited to, the structural soundness of the building, sanitation code, staffing requirements and the execution of emergency plans.

Please Email or Fax requests to re-open/re-occupy healthcare facility to: hssep@la.gov or 225-342-5073.