HEALTHCARE FACILITY NOTICE/ORDER
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: All licensed Therapeutic Group Homes in Louisiana

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:


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 Therapeutic Group Homes licensed in Louisiana 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 Therapeutic Group Home 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) Any Therapeutic Group Home in Louisiana may impose stricter universal masking policies for all staff, residents and visitors than mandated in this Order if the facility chooses, provided that the facility has a policy and procedure in place to address such masking restrictions.

(3) This State Health Officer Order replaces and supersedes any previously issued State Health Officer orders/notices to licensed therapeutic group homes regarding masking of all staff, residents and visitors.


Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

Concurrence:

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
LDH Secretary