



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: April 14, 2020

RE: DDS Fire Safety Guidance During COVID-19

On March 15, 2020 Governor Lamont issued [Executive Order No 7C](#) which imposed a complete ban on all visitors to residential facilities for persons with intellectual disability, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 17a-231(1). In response, DDS continues to enforce this visitation ban. Most recently, the department ordered an extension to this ban for an additional period of thirty days commencing on April 9, 2020. For a copy of this order please visit: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DDS/COVID-19/Visitation_Order_extension_4_9_20.pdf?la=en

With this visitation ban in place, DDS recently consulted with the State Fire Marshal to determine that the following:

- DDS residential settings that require a local Fire Marshal certificate will have those inspections suspended until June 30, 2020.
- The servicing of quarterly sprinkler systems and routine servicing of fire panel/alarm systems will also be suspended until June 30, 2020 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.