



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:** February 10, 2021

**RE: Updated** DDS Fire Safety Guidance During COVID-19, #3

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As the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) continues to monitor the COVID-19 cases around the state, the following changes regarding fire safety will go into effect as of today, February 10, 2021.

- DDS residential settings that require a local Fire Marshal certificate will have those inspections resume as long as the following criteria is met:
  - There are no active cases of COVID-19 (residents or staff) or residents considered PUI.
  - The inspector shall be screened by the host provider for COVID-19 including a temperature check. If the inspector is on site for longer than four hours an additional COVID-19 screening shall occur by the host provider and shall be documented.
  - The inspector shall utilize hand sanitizer upon entry and maintain wearing a comparable mask/respirator as the direct care staff are wearing for the home during the entire inspection, including a properly jurisdiction supplied fit tested N-95 if that is what the operations of the agency or the home is utilizing.
- The servicing of quarterly sprinkler systems and routine servicing of fire panel/alarm systems will resume as long as the following criteria is met:
  - There are no active cases of COVID-19 (residents or staff) or residents considered PUI.
  - The inspector shall be screened by the host provider for COVID-19 including a temperature check. If the inspector is on site for longer than four hours an additional COVID-19 screening shall occur by the host provider and shall be documented.
  - The inspector shall utilize hand sanitizer upon entry and maintain wearing a comparable mask/respirator as the direct care staff are wearing for the home during the entire inspection, including a properly jurisdiction supplied fit tested N-95 if that is what the operations of the agency or the home is utilizing.

Should the home have any COVID related issues and are therefore unable to have the inspection or fire safety systems inspected but there is a failure of a fire safety system component, the system shall be repaired. Repair staff shall be onsite with their company supplied PPE at the same level of protection as the home is using (gowns, faceshields, N-95's, etc)

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.