

NYSNA Recommendations and Resources for Reopening during COVID-19

Behavioral Health Settings: NYSNAs Nursing Education & Practice and Health & Safety Guidelines



Unit	Pre-Screening	Criteria for Testing	Unit Modifications	PPE	Cleaning	Visitor Access	RN to Patient Ratio
Behavioral Health	<p>Screening by real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction is ideal.</p> <p>Antibody testing is useful in determining prior infection for COVID, not for active ongoing infection.</p> <p>Screening should be within 8 – 24 hours of admission.</p> <p>Patient should be quarantined while awaiting test results.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough • Sore throat • Chills • Repeated shaking with chills • Muscle pain • Headache • Loss of taste or smell • Contact with someone known to have COVID-19 • Fever of 100 F • Shortness of breath <p>If patient develops COVID-19 transfer to a medical/Surgical Unit or ICU</p>	<p>Maintain a person centered approach to care.</p> <p>Group activities should be limited to 10 people.</p> <p>Utilize non-face to face meeting options such as phone, telemedicine to the extent possible.</p> <p>For shared bedrooms ensure cohorting of non-COVID patients and beds are at least 6 feet apart which may require modifications to ensure beds are secured in new position in room as per guidelines (6 feet apart).</p> <p>Staff should provide separate area for nicotine replacement therapy to help eliminate nicotine withdrawal and desire to leave the unit to smoke.</p> <p>Units that do not have barriers around the nurse’s station should</p>	<p>All patients (if possible) and visitors must use surgical masks.</p> <p>All staff should use N95s. Those patients who are pre-symptomatic and those patients who are awaiting testing results could be shedding the virus, as can other staff members.</p> <p>Ensure availability and accessibility of alcohol based hand rubs, tissues, no-touch receptacles for waste.</p>	<p>CDC recommends team cleaning and disinfection procedures.</p> <p>Laundry, foodservice utensils, and medical waste should be performed in accordance with routine infection control procedures.</p> <p>Surfaces, nobs, handles, and other items that come in to frequent hand contact should be sanitized frequently throughout the day.</p> <p>Bathrooms should be designated as one for PUI, and one for non-COVID. Bathroom surfaces, shower knobs, curtains, handles and other high contact surfaces should be sanitized after each use. If possible leave bathroom window open to help reduce aerosolized droplets. Stagger bathroom times</p>	<p>Facilities should limit access to current patients, essential staff.</p> <p>Visitors permitted on a very limited basis only if they are granted an exception due to compassionate situations.</p> <p>Facilities should encourage communications to outsiders via phone, Zoom, Face time, Skype. Cell phones and other frequently handled devices should be sanitized daily.</p> <p>If patients go out of the facility, upon return they should immediately wash their hands for at least 20 seconds.</p>	<p>1:4</p> <p>(as per NYSNA Staffing Bill)</p> <p>RN’s should be assigned a cohorted group of patients (only non-COVID or PUI patients)</p> <p>A ratio of 1:1 for suicide risk</p>

NYSNA Recommendations and Resources for Reopening during COVID-19
Behavioral Health Settings: NYSNAs Nursing Education & Practice and Health & Safety Guidelines



			install them.		and run ventilation fans for at least 20 minutes between uses.		
	<p>Resources: https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/covid-19-guidance-for-behavioral-health-residential-facilities/ https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/Psychiatrists/APA-Guidance-ECT-COVID-19.pdf</p> <p>For Opioid and Methadone Clinics: https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/covid-19/otp-guidance-outline.pdf?sfvrsn=886e53c2_2</p> <p>Joint Commission: Preparing Behavioral Health Organizations for COVID 19 https://www.jointcommission.org/resources/news-and-multimedia/webinars/coronavirus-webinar-replays/preparing-behavioral-health-organizations-for-coronavirus-webinar-replay/</p>						