**Memo**

To: Family Members, Individual Served, Care Coordinators

From: Nicholas Kaitanowski, Vice President Residential Services

Re: Cluster Action Initiative

Date: 11/11/2020

The Governor of New York has implemented a system throughout the state that provides a color-coded designation to geographic areas based on their COVID infection rates. The codes range from yellow, orange and red (highest risk). Due to the new system and the potential increased risk from COVID, we are required to implement mitigation actions depending on the color code designation of the geographic area where the residence is located. The actions we will have to take may involve continuing to follow the precautions we have been implementing these last many months, such as when the facility is located within a yellow zone. If there is an increased risk of transmission, additional mitigation efforts will be required which could include limiting or suspending visits to the home or unnecessary community outings, if the geographic area is in an orange or a red zone.

These zones are determined by the state as well as the corresponding actions to be taken. OPWDD will be providing notification to sasi of any of our certified facilities falling within a zone requiring additional action. We will ensure that we keep families updated regarding the status of our residences as we receive this information. We want to ensure that people understand that there may be changes to visitations to our homes.

Additional information on maps, zones and risk can be obtained at: <https://forward.ny.gov/> . COVID has presented many challenges and the situation will continue to evolve. We at sasi are committed to ensuring that we communicate updates to families and care providers in a timely fashion.