



GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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Memo 26-23

To: Administrator, DNS, Medical Director, Infection Preventionist, MDS Coordinators and QA Committee

From: Mary Gracey-White BSN, RN, QCP, Director of Regulatory Compliance and Arlette A Drigpaul, MSN RN Infection Preventionist/Education Coordinator

Date: May 15, 2026

Re: Member Updates NYSDOH-Trade Association Call

On 5/14/26 GNYHCFA participated in a call with the New York State Department of Health. The following were highlights from the call:

- With warmer weather, there has been an increase in elopement. NYSDOH reported that there has been Immediate Jeopardy situations relating to elopement (as recent as yesterday). We recommend facilities review elopement policies / procedures and conduct drills.
- NYSDOH also discussed a recent increase in abuse allegations. We recommend members conduct education, review policies, and conduct rounds engaging with staff and residents.
- As we head into warmer weather, please ensure staff and residents are provided with information on hot weather policies/procedures to prevent heat emergencies. NYSDOH emphasized facilities ensure sure HVAC systems are functioning and test generators to ensure proper function.
- Increase concerns in entrapment with side rails. NYSDOH understands side rails are requested by families, but facilities must follow regulatory requirements [dal_nh_25-06.pdf](#)
- Compliance Notice Letters for Staffing Quarter 2, 2024 will be sent out next week. **Ensure HCS contact information is correct.**
- Medical Aid and Dying legislation- still finalizing guidance Effective date is Aug 5th. GNYHCFA will provide information on how this newly enacted law will impact SNFs.
- HCP Flu Immunization Report- An informational message will be sent when the survey is opening on the SMART platform. Providers will be given 3 months to complete SMART training and enter their data. Email immunize@health.ny.gov or call 518-473-4437 for any questions.
- The Center for Residential Surveillance would like for facility staff to share their survey experience. All responses **are confidential** and will be reviewed by the Center for Residential Surveillance, Bureau of Quality Assurance and Complaint Resolution. The goal is to utilize feedback regarding surveys practices to ensure operations are conducted in accordance with current guidelines, policies, and procedures.

If you need further information or assistance with any of these recommendations, please contact the Association.