



The purpose of this plan is to protect employees against exposure and disease during an airborne infectious disease outbreak. This plan goes into effect when an airborne infectious disease is designated by the New York State Commissioner of Health as a highly contagious communicable disease that presents a serious risk of harm to the public health. This plan is subject to any additional or greater requirements arising from a declaration of a state of emergency due to an airborne infectious disease, as well as any applicable federal standards.

*Employees should report any questions or concerns with the implementation this plan to **their supervisor**.*

This plan applies to all “employees” as defined by the New York State HERO Act, which means any person providing labor or services for remuneration for a private entity or business within the state, without regard to an individual’s immigration status, and shall include part-time workers, independent contractors, domestic workers, home care and personal care workers, day laborers, farmworkers and other temporary and seasonal workers.

The term also includes individuals working for digital applications or platforms, staffing agencies, contractors or subcontractors on behalf of the employer at any individual work site, as well as any individual delivering goods or transporting people at, to or from the work site on behalf of the employer, regardless of whether delivery or transport is conducted by an individual or entity that would otherwise be deemed an employer under this chapter. The term does not include employees or independent contractors of the state, any political subdivision of the state, a public authority, or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

As of the date of the publication of this document, while the State continues to deal with COVID-19 and a risk still exists, no designation is in effect at this time. Please check the websites of Departments of Health and Labor for up to date information on whether a designation has been put into effect, as any such designation will be prominently displayed. No employer is required to put a plan into effect absent such a designation by the Commissioner of Health.

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## I. RESPONSIBILITIES

This plan applies to all employees of A Very Special Place, Inc. and the following work sites:

49 Cedar Grove Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306, 634 New Dorp Lane Staten Island, NY 10306, 694 New Dorp lane Staten Island NY 10306,
72 Benton Ave Staten Island, NY 10305, 1041 Hylan Blvd Staten Island NY 10305, 2547 Amboy Rd Staten Island NY 10306,
29/31 Glenwood Ave Staten Island, NY 1030, 55 Quintard St Staten Island, NY 10305
694 New Dorp Lane Apts A & B Staten Island, NY 10306 , 36 A & 36 B S Greenleaf Ave Staten Island NY 10310, 192 Green Leaf Ave Apt 13B Staten Island NY 10310 198 Green Leaf Ave Apt 8A Staten Island NY 10310

This plan requires commitment to ensure compliance with all plan elements aimed at preventing the spread of infectious disease. The following supervisory employee(s) are designated to enforce compliance with the plan. Additionally, these supervisory employees will act as the designated contacts unless otherwise noted in this plan:

Name	Title	Location	Phone
Ann Marie Hartnett	Director of Human Resources	49 Cedar Grove Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306	
Jim Durakovic	Director of Facilities Management	49 Cedar Grove Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306	
Joanne McCarthy – Mulvey	Supervising Nurse	49 Cedar Grove Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306	
Paul Schwarz	Director of Staff Development & Training	49 Cedar Grove Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306	
Connie Massey	Director of Quality Assurance	49 Cedar Grove Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306	

## II. EXPOSURE CONTROLS DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

### A. MINIMUM CONTROLS DURING AN OUTBREAK

During an airborne infectious disease outbreak, the following minimum controls will be used in all areas of the worksite:

- General Awareness:** Individuals may not be aware that they have the infectious disease and can spread it to others. Employees should remember to:
  - Maintain physical distancing;
  - Exercise coughing/sneezing etiquette;
  - Wear face coverings, gloves, and personal protective equipment (PPE), as appropriate;
  - Individuals limit what they touch;
  - Stop social etiquette behaviors such as hugging and hand shaking, and
  - Wash hands properly and often.
- “Stay at Home Policy”:** If an employee develops symptoms of the infectious disease, the employee should not be in the workplace. The employee should inform their supervisor and follow New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance regarding obtaining medical care and isolating.
- Health Screening:** Employees will be screened for symptoms of the infectious disease at the beginning of their shift. Temperatures are taken and questions asked of staff as required by DOH & OPWDD. Employees are to self-monitor throughout their shift and report any new or emerging signs or symptoms of the infectious disease to the designated contact. An employee showing signs or symptoms of the infectious disease should be removed from the workplace and should contact a healthcare professional for instructions. The health screening elements will follow guidance from NYSDOH and CDC guidance, if available.

4. **Face Coverings:** To protect your coworkers, employees will wear face coverings throughout the workday to the greatest extent possible. Face coverings and physical distancing should be used together whenever possible. The face covering must cover the nose and mouth, and fit snugly, but comfortably, against the face. The face covering itself must not create a hazard, e.g. have features could get caught in machinery or cause severe fogging of eyewear. The face coverings must be kept clean and sanitary and changed when soiled, contaminated, or damaged. We will advise when masks are required in accordance with CDC & OPWDD guidance
5. **Physical Distancing:** Physical distancing will be followed as much as feasible. Avoid unnecessary gatherings and maintain a distance of at least six feet (or as recommended by the NYSDOH/CDC for the infectious agent) from each other. Use a face covering when physical distance cannot be maintained.
  - restricting or limiting customer or visitor entry;
  - limiting occupancy;
  - allowing only one person at a time inside small enclosed spaces with poor ventilation;
  - reconfiguring workspaces;
  - physical barriers;
  - signage;
  - floor markings;
  - telecommuting;
  - remote meetings;
  - preventing gatherings;
  - restricting travel in accordance with CDC guidelines & New York State Guidelines.
  - creating new work shifts and/or staggering work hours;
  - adjusting break times and lunch periods;
  - delivering services remotely or through curbside pickup;
6. **Hand Hygiene:** To prevent the spread of infection, employees should wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to clean hands BEFORE and AFTER:
  - Touching your eyes, nose, or mouth;
  - Touching your mask;
  - Entering and leaving a public place; and
  - Touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, gas pumps, shopping carts, or electronic cashier registers/screens.

Because hand sanitizers are less effective on soiled hands, wash hands rather than using hand sanitizer when your hands are soiled.

7. **Cleaning and Disinfection:** See Section V of this plan.
8. **“Respiratory Etiquette”:** Because infectious diseases can be spread by droplets expelled from the mouth and nose, employees should exercise appropriate respiratory etiquette by covering nose and mouth when sneezing, coughing or yawning.
9. **Special Accommodations for Individuals with Added Risk Factors:** Some employees, due to age, underlying health condition, or other factors, may be at increased risk of severe illness if infected. Please inform your supervisor or the HR department if you fall within this group and need an accommodation.

## **B. ADVANCED CONTROLS DURING AN OUTBREAK**

For activities where the Minimum Controls alone will not provide sufficient protection for employees, additional controls from the following hierarchy may be necessary. Employers should determine if the following are necessary:

1. Elimination: Employers should consider the temporary suspension or elimination of risky activities where adequate controls could not provide sufficient protection for employees. We have adjusted our activities in accordance with OPWDD regulations.
2. Engineering Controls: Employers should consider appropriate controls to contain and/or remove the infectious agent, prevent the agent from being spread, or isolate the worker from the infectious agent. Examples of engineering controls include:
  - i. Mechanical Ventilation:
    - a. Local Exhaust Ventilation, for example:
      - Kitchen vents are to be cleaned quarterly by staff
    - b. General Ventilation, for example:
      - Increasing the percentage of fresh air introduced into air handling systems;
      - Avoiding air recirculation;
      - Using higher-efficiency air filters in the air handling system;
      - If fans are used in the facility, arrange them so that air does not blow directly from one worker to another; and
  - ii. Natural Ventilation – we advise staff:
    - Opening of outside windows and doors to create natural ventilation; and
    - Opening windows on one side of the room to let fresh air in
  - iii. Installed cleanable barriers such as partitions and/or clear plastic sneeze/cough guards.
  - iv. Change layout to avoid points or areas where employees may congregate (e.g., Limit seating in lounge areas, install additional timeclocks).

Subject to changes based on operations and circumstances surrounding the infectious disease, engineering controls that are anticipated to be used are listed in the following table:

<b>Engineering Controls Utilized/Location:</b>
Air Purifiers are on site, HVAC filters changed to M-13 Filters at all sites except residences
All Buildings are sanitized daily,
Refer to Safety Plans for: 634 New Dorp Lane Staten Island NY 10306, 694 New Dorp Lane Staten Island NY 10306, & 55 Quintard St Staten Island NY 10305

3. "We implement the following:

- Increasing the space between workers;
- Disinfecting procedures for specific operations;
- Not shaking out soiled laundry;
- Employee training;
- Identify and prioritize job functions that are essential for continuous operations;
- Cross-train employees to ensure critical operations can continue during worker absence;
- Limit the use of shared workstations;
- Post signs reminding employees of respiratory etiquette, masks, handwashing;
- Rearrange traffic flow to allow for one-way walking paths;
- Provide clearly designated entrance and exits;
- Provide additional short breaks for handwashing and cleaning as needed. Signs are posted reminding staff to wash hands often -
- Establishing pods or cohorts working on same shift;

Subject to changes based on operations and circumstances surrounding the infectious disease, the following specific administrative controls are anticipated to be used:

Administrative Controls Utilized/Location:
Continuously update notification to staff on current practices in accordance with OPWDD & CDC guidance.
Continuously Monitor number of staff at work sites and allow for remote access if possible and as applicable
Track Staff covid cases and vaccination status

4. 10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are devices like eye protection, face shields, respirators , , and gloves that protect the wearer from infection. PPE will be provided, used and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition at no cost to the employee. The PPE provided to an employee will be based on a hazard assessment for the workplace.

PPE Required - Activity Involved/Location:
Masks, KN 95's **
Gloves & Isolation gowns, **
Goggles & Face Shields **
Hand Sanitizers **
** Available at all sites and are used as needed per Covid 19 protocols & other pandemics as designated by the health department of New York State
<i>1 The use of respiratory protection, e.g. an N95 filtering facepiece respirator, requires compliance with the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134 or temporary respiratory protection requirements OSHA allows for during the infectious disease outbreak.</i>
<i>2 Respirators with exhalation valves will release exhaled droplets from the respirators. Respirators are designed to protect the wearer. Surgical masks and face coverings, which are not respirators, are designed to protect others, not the wearer.</i>

**C. EXPOSURE CONTROL READINESS, MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE:**

The controls we have selected will be obtained, properly stored, and maintained so that they are ready for immediate use in the event of an infectious disease outbreak and any applicable expiration dates will be properly considered.

### III. HOUSEKEEPING DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

#### A. Disinfection Methods and Schedules

Objects that are touched repeatedly by multiple individuals, such as door handles, light switches, control buttons/levers, dials, levers, water faucet handles, computers, phones, or handrails are cleaned frequently with an appropriate disinfectant. Surfaces that are handled less often, or by fewer individuals, may require less frequent disinfection.

The disinfection methods and schedules selected are based on specific workplace conditions.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have compiled lists of approved disinfectants that are effective against many infectious agents (see [dec.ny.gov](http://dec.ny.gov) and [epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants](http://epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants)). We use disinfectants based on NYSDOH and CDC guidance and follow manufacturer guidance for methods, dilution, use, and contact time.

#### B. Adjustments to Normal Housekeeping Procedures

Normal housekeeping duties and schedules continue to be followed during an infectious disease outbreak, to the extent practicable and appropriate consistent with NYSDOH and/or CDC guidance in effect at the time. However, routine procedures may need to be adjusted and additional cleaning and disinfecting may be required.

Housekeeping staff may be at increased risk because they may be cleaning many potentially contaminated surfaces. Some housekeeping activities, like dry sweeping, vacuuming, and dusting, can resuspend into the air particles that are contaminated with the infectious agent. For that reason, alternative methods and/or increased levels of protection will be followed.

See [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) for more guidance. : House keeping staff wear masks and gloves, follow schedules, and cdc guidance for cleaning.

C. If an employee develops symptoms of the infectious disease at work, isolate the area in accordance with guidance issued by NYSDOH or the CDC, before cleaning and disinfecting the sick employee's work area immediately or as soon as practical.

D. Liners are used in trash containers. Empty the containers often enough to prevent overfilling. Do not forcefully squeeze the air out of the trash bags before tying them closed. Trash containers may contain soiled tissue or face coverings.

### IV. INFECTION RESPONSE DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

If an actual, or suspected, infectious disease case occurs at work, take the following actions:

- Instruct the sick individual to wear a face covering and leave the worksite and follow NYSDOH/CDC guidance.
- Follow local and state authority guidance to inform impacted individuals.
- In a residential setting, place residence in quarantine if positive case of infectious disease and follow OPWDD protocols

### V. TRAINING AND INFORMATION DURING A DESIGNATED OUTBREAK

A. All Managers will verbally inform all employees of the existence and location of this Plan, the circumstances it can be activated, the infectious disease standard, employer policies, and employee rights under the HERO Act. (Note: training need not be provided to the following individuals: any individuals working for staffing agencies, contractors or subcontractors on behalf of the employer at any individual work site, as well as any individual delivering goods or transporting people at, to or from the work site on behalf of the employer, where delivery or transport is conducted by an individual or entity that would otherwise be deemed an employer under this chapter)

This Plan will also be sent to existing employees via electronic communication and to new hires as part of the orientation new hire packet.

B. When this plan is activated, all personnel will receive training which will cover all elements of this plan and the following topics:





## **VII. RETALIATION PROTECTIONS AND REPORTING OF ANY VIOLATIONS**

No employer, or his or her agent, or person, , acting as or on behalf of a hiring entity, or the officer or agent of any entity, business, corporation, partnership, or limited liability company, shall discriminate, threaten, retaliate against, or take adverse action against any employee for exercising their rights under this plan, including reporting conduct the employee reasonably believes in good faith violates the plan or airborne infectious disease concerns to their employer, government agencies or officials or for refusing to work where an employee reasonably believes in good faith that such work exposes him or her, other workers, or the public to an unreasonable risk of exposure, provided the employee, another employee, or representative has notified the employer verbally or in writing, including electronic communication, of the inconsistent working conditions and the employer's failure to cure or if the employer knew or should have known of the consistent working conditions.

Notification of a violation by an employee may be made verbally or in writing, and without limitation to format including electronic communications. To the extent that communications between the employer and employee regarding a potential risk of exposure are in writing, they shall be maintained by the employer for two years after the conclusion of the designation of a high risk disease from the Commissioner of Health, or two years after the conclusion of the Governor's emergency declaration of a high risk disease. Employer should include contact information to report violations of this plan and retaliation during regular business hours and for weekends/other non-regular business hours when employees may be working.

**WE ARE YOUR DOL**

