

STATE OF NEW YORK

8270

IN SENATE

May 1, 2020

Introduced by Sen. GOUNARDES -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing requirements for residential healthcare facilities during a state disaster emergency involving a disease outbreak

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 2803 of the public health law is amended by adding
2 two new subdivisions 12 and 13 to read as follows:

3 12. In the event of a state disaster emergency as defined under
4 section twenty of the executive law that involves a disease outbreak,
5 the department shall issue guidance to residential healthcare facilities
6 regarding precautions and procedures to take to protect and maintain the
7 health and safety of residents and staff during the course of an
8 outbreak, and to prevent widespread transmission of a communicable
9 disease. Such guidance shall include but not be limited to:
10 restrictions on visitation and entry into the facility by non-essential
11 personnel, staff education and training on symptoms and transmission,
12 screening of all staff prior to the commencement of a work shift, daily
13 inventory and reporting to the department of personal protective equip-
14 ment and other supplies, hand hygiene and environmental disinfection,
15 mask use and source control, resident education and monitoring, place-
16 ment of residents with confirmed or suspected infections, notification
17 to family members or close friends of affected residents of a confirmed
18 or suspected infection, informing and educating family members or close
19 friends of the availability of alternative placement options, including
20 but not limited to home care services authorized under article thirty-
21 six of this chapter, and making available means of communication for
22 residents to communicate with family or other close friends three times
23 a day. Upon issuance of such guidance, the department shall disseminate
24 it to all administrators of residential healthcare facilities and
25 publish it on the department's website no less than twenty-four hours
26 after a state disaster emergency has been declared.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 13. In the event of a state disaster emergency as defined under
2 section twenty of the executive law that involves a disease outbreak,
3 the department may utilize public health emergency appropriations for
4 the purpose of securing alternative placement options, including but not
5 limited to home care services under article thirty-six of this chapter,
6 for residents of residential healthcare facilities for the duration of
7 the state disaster emergency.

8 § 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2808-e
9 to read as follows:

10 § 2808-e. Residential healthcare facility reporting requirements. In
11 the event of a state outbreak of a communicable disease or infection,
12 all residential healthcare facilities shall report the following infor-
13 mation on a daily basis to the department and the local health depart-
14 ment in the county in which the facility is based: the number of resi-
15 dents or staff with suspected or confirmed infection of the disease; the
16 number of residents with severe infection resulting in hospitalization
17 or death; and the number of fatalities following hospitalization result-
18 ing from suspected or confirmed infection of the disease. The department
19 shall aggregate and publish de-identified data, submitted by residential
20 healthcare facilities under this section on a weekly basis, in a manner
21 that is consistent with the federal Health Insurance Portability and
22 Accountability Act, as amended, and any regulations promulgated there-
23 under.

24 § 3. Section 2806-a of the public health law is amended by adding a
25 new subdivision 9 to read as follows:

26 9. Notwithstanding any other provisions or requirements established
27 pursuant to this section, in the event of a state disaster emergency as
28 defined under section twenty of the executive law that involves disease
29 outbreak, for any residential healthcare facility that experiences a
30 fatality rate of at least five percent of the resident census as a
31 result of such state disaster emergency or disease outbreak as well as
32 strong indications that the infection rate within the facility is
33 increasing exponentially, the commissioner shall establish daily commu-
34 nications with such facility to determine and provide, to the extent
35 practicable, all necessary supplies, equipment, personnel and personnel
36 training to ensure the facility is adequately prepared to ensure the
37 health and safety of the residents. If, in the event that the fatality
38 and infection rate remains the same or increases over a fifteen day
39 period from the commissioner's initial contact, due to negligent and
40 willful actions of the facility director, which may in part include a
41 willful failure to comply with procedures or utilization of supplies and
42 equipment provided, the commissioner shall appoint a temporary operator
43 to assume sole control and sole responsibility for the operations of the
44 facility until the residents of the facility may be safely relocated to
45 another residential healthcare facility or can establish eligibility and
46 make the necessary connections to receive home care services under arti-
47 cle thirty-six of this chapter.

48 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
49 the amendments to section 2806-a of the public health law made by
50 section three of this act shall not affect the repeal of such section
51 and shall be deemed to repeal therewith.