Guidance for Social Adult Day Cares: What you need to know about COVID-19

Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, New York City and New York State directed all older adult congregate programs and centers to close; this includes all Social Adult Day Cares (SADCs). If you observe an SADC that is continuing to operate, please contact the SADC Ombudsman Office or call 311 to file a complaint. Penalties may apply for SADCs that do not comply with the directive.

There is widespread community transmission of COVID-19. This means COVID-19 is circulating in the community and that we all should act as though we are exposed. The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and sore throat. People 50 years of age or older and people who have other health conditions, including lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, kidney disease, liver disease, cancer, or a weakened immune system, are most at risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

What is a Social Adult Day Care (SADC)?
- A social adult day care (SADC) is a structured program that provides functionally impaired older adults with socialization, supervision, personal care, and nutrition in a protective setting. You can find more information about SADCs on the DFTA website.

What guidance has the City provided DFTA-funded SADCs?
- All DFTA-funded SADC are among the congregate sites that are closed. All providers have received guidance and up-to-date information about the closures, and DFTA maintains an open line of communication with the providers. Penalties may apply if a SADC is open.

What guidance have non-DFTA funded SADCs received?
- All SADCs have been directed to close. NYC’s Department for the Aging (DFTA) has worked with the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to ensure all centers outside of DFTA’s jurisdiction receive the same guidance. Penalties may apply if a SADC is open.

How can SADC clients continue to receive meals while the centers are closed?
- Home Delivered Meals (HDM) providers have not been impacted. SADC clients will continue to receive meals through their HDM service, where applicable.
- All DFTA-funded senior centers are now providing direct meal delivery to all older adults registered with a DFTA-funded SADC.
- Older adults who want to sign up to receive directly delivered meals should call 311 and ask for “meal delivery assistance” to see if they are eligible. They can also go on the website www.nyc.gov/GetFood to learn more about COVID-19 Food Assistance Resources.

What kind of oversight does the City have over SADCs?
- All SADCs programs are required to register with DFTA prior to operating in New York City and the deadline to do so is May 2, 2020. Each SADC program can register using this link: https://a125-sadc.nyc.gov/SADC/WebForm/Login.aspx. SADC programs are also required to keep their registration information up to date, including hours of operation, contact information, number of clients served. Penalties will be assessed for each day that a SADC program has not registered or has not updated their registration with DFTA as required by law. Sign in to register or make SADC changes.

Other DFTA Services
- To find resources, please use the DFTA Find Help search function.
- Aging Connect is DFTA’s contact center for resources, services, and volunteer opportunities. Call 212-AGING-NYC or 212-244-6469 to speak with an aging specialist.
- Hours of operation: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- For questions outside of Aging Connect hours of operation, call 311.

NOTE: The situation regarding COVID-19 is rapidly changing as is our knowledge of this new disease. The guidance is this document based on the best information currently available. Visit the NYC Health Department website and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for more information.