



## Office of Addiction Services and Supports

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**ARLENE GONZÁLEZ-SÁNCHEZ, M.S.,  
L.M.S.W.**  
Commissioner

August 18, 2020

The New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) is responsible for the certification, regulation and oversight of prevention, treatment and recovery services for individuals with substance use disorder services. Specifically, OASAS has authority to set standards for the certification and inspection of addiction services pursuant to Mental Hygiene Law §§19.09, 19.21, 32.01, 32.03, 32.13, 32.15.

Under 14 NYCRR Part 800.5, the Office has the authority to waive regulations not specifically enumerated in statute where meeting the requirement would impose a hardship, the waiver would not impact patient/resident health and safety, and such waiver would be in the best interests of patients and residents.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in more than 424,000 confirmed positive cases and 32,000 deaths in New York State alone. It has resulted in a substantial shift in the way substance use disorder treatment is delivered to those in need across New York State. To decrease the possibility of COVID-19 transmission and ensure patient, provider and staff health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, OASAS will be temporarily conducting virtual recertification reviews. For the duration of the virtual recertification reviews, the Office, pursuant to 800.5, is waiving the requirement for on-site inspection required by 14 NYCRR 810.14 solely to the extent such regulations require reviews to be conducted on-site at a certified program. This waiver does not modify or remove any other programmatic or regulatory requirements that the program must comply with. This waiver does not prevent OASAS from conducting an on-site review at any time to ensure health and safety or comply with any other law, rule or regulation.

OASAS regional office will be sending written information that elaborates on the process. The review staff will communicate with individual programs prior to the review to provide additional information on structure of the review and how reviewers will access program information. OASAS will be utilizing software which allows for highspeed and secure transfer of data regardless of file size, transfer or network conditions to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal confidentiality requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trisha Schell-Guy".

Trisha Schell-Guy

cc: Manuel Mosquera, OASAS Director Regional Office  
Keith McCarthy, OASAS Associate Commissioner  
Division of Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement