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**OMH/OASAS guidance to Article 31/32 providers regarding educating clients  
and reporting COVID-19 vaccination status**

**March 31, 2021**

We appreciate your ongoing efforts to maintain and strengthen New York's public behavioral health system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, you have repeatedly risen to challenges and continue to serve your clients admirably. The ["O-Agency" O-LOV Vaccination Program](#) has presented another opportunity for us to provide critical services. It also underscores the larger theme of behavioral health providers taking a more integrated and person-centered approach to care. To this end, we want to emphasize that Article 31/32 providers must adhere to the following guidelines and requirements:

- 1. Behavioral health agency clinical staff should be providing education and counseling about the COVID-19 illness and vaccines to all clients.** Program leadership should emphasize the need to counsel all clients regarding the importance of getting vaccinated and must develop policies, protocols, and processes for clinical staff to collect information about vaccination status from their clients.
- 2. Behavioral health agency leadership must continue to update the Multi-Agency Vaccination Data Collection System weekly. Agencies are required to track individual client information about vaccination status, aggregate it at a program-level, and report accurate data into the Vaccination Data Collection System every week.** You will continue to receive a link to your programs' surveys weekly, which must be completed by 5PM every Friday. If you do not receive this link or have any other questions, please reach out to your [OMH Field Office](#) or [OASAS Regional Office](#).

We are at a critical point in our collective efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. The NYS Governor's Office and Department of Health have entrusted us with the responsibility to offer vaccination to our clients and staff, and it is critical that we respond and confirm their confidence in our ability to ensure New Yorkers with behavioral health conditions receive the best care. We appreciate your attention to these issues.

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