

Good afternoon NASW-NYC family,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to provide a brief update to many of your inquiries and requests for advocacy regarding the New York State Education Department (NYSED) COVID-19 regulations, and practice. In our quarterly meetings with NYSED Executive Secretary, Dr. David Hamilton, we continue to appreciate the responsiveness to the complexities we've all tried to navigate in the past 18 months.

Over the past several months, many of you have reached out regarding difficulty reaching NYSED on the phone/email and confusion on regulations and COVID's impact. As always, NASW-NYC strongly encourages that you check and fully read the [NYS Education Department \(NYSED\)'S website](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 and practice in general. Additionally, if your questions are connected to other entities with the specific jurisdictional authority to answer those questions, please go to that agency's website/reach out directly to them for information.

In communication with Executive Secretary Hamilton regarding lengthy wait times, we were offered the following:

1. Instead of waiting on the phone when call volumes are high, there is an option to leave a message with your contact information and receive a call back. You can also send an email. Please note that per the initial automatic reply you will receive, you must include your full name, date of birth, and last 4-digits of your social security number (if applicable), the associated profession and a brief description of why you are contacting NYSED.
NOTE: NYSED cannot respond to your email without this information.

Additionally, if your question can be answered by the tips and resources already available on the website, you will not receive a response to your email.

2. NYSED has a small team and they are expected to begin returning to the office August 2021. Please be mindful that with a small team, and high demands, it is highly encouraged that you use the available resources on the frequently updated website that will help you get your questions answered and reduce the wait times.

Please be mindful of the following and check [NYSED's website](#) for more information:

1. Update on Emergency Regulations is available [here](#) and includes:
 - a. Website updated with FAQs [COVID-19 FAQs \(nysed.gov\)](https://www.nysed.gov/covid-19-faqs)
 - b. Allowing distance practice and distance supervision due to COVID
 - c. MSW degree programs have flexibility in hours but must provide clinical content, although distance practice and supervision are acceptable under the regulations (52.30)
2. Department statement on the Governor's end of the Executive Order states that Licensed Professions should exercise due diligence and good faith efforts to return to compliance with all Title VIII statutory and regulatory requirements without delay.

3. Continuing Education adjustment for **100% self-study courses from NYSED approved providers continues until 1/1/2022**. Licensee could complete 36 hours for the current period, by that date.
4. **CE providers can offer courses in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) as it relates to social work practice**, without a change in laws, rules or regulations, so long as the course complies with 74.10 regulations for social work education
5. NYSED staff will be returning to the office, starting 8/1/2021 but there may be exceptions due to health, child care and elder care on an individual basis. All staff should return by 9/2021 but may have a hybrid schedule.

Please note the following:

There are no provisions in NY law to allow an individual who is **NOT** licensed and registered in NY to practice the profession.

This is a matter of law, not policy. Any client should be referred to a qualified, licensed professional or authorized agency in New York for immediate care, as needed.

ANSWERS TO MOST OF YOUR QUESTIONS CAN BE FOUND UNDER THE [“HOW DO I?”](#) TAB at www.op.nysed.gov.

The NASW-NYC Chapter