

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

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Acting Commissioner of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Preparedness Partners:

Subject: Transportation Assistance Level Classifications

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP), continues to promote emergency preparedness for healthcare facilities, including enhanced response to catastrophic events.

In collaboration with preparedness partners, OHEP has developed a standard Transportation Assistance Level (TAL) classification system to help streamline and coordinate evacuations statewide. The TALs classifications are used by healthcare professionals to assess the type of transportation resources needed (e.g. buses, vans, ambulances) by each patient/resident at a facility during a **planned evacuation**. Comparatively, TALs are not intended for use during an emergent situation, such as a fire.

New, easily recognized universal symbols corresponding to each TAL category have also been developed and may be printed and affixed to each patient/resident to help make their transport needs visually and more immediately apparent. Though all healthcare facilities are expected to use TALs to categorize patients/residents, use of the icons is not required and each facility shall operationalize use of the icons during an exercise or **planned evacuation** as deemed feasible.

Non-ambulatory [TAL 1] -The icon for TAL 1 is a gurney symbol.
Wheelchair [TAL 2] -The icon for TAL 2 is a wheelchair symbol.
Ambulatory [TAL 3] -The icon for TAL 3 is a walking figure symbol.

Details of the TALs assessment scale, TALs objectives and mobility level specifics will be presented in a webinar for healthcare facilities and planning partners. You will be provided with webinar dates and times under separate cover.

Please contact Katharine Logan, Office of Health Emergency Preparedness at 518- 408-5163 or katharine.logan@health.ny.gov with questions or concerns regarding this initiative.

Signature



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