

State of New York OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH <hr/> OMH OFFICIAL POLICY MANUAL	Date Issued 02-08-02	T. L. 02-01	Section # OM-720
	Section Operational Management		
	Directive Testing of Water Temperature in Residential Building and Daycare Centers		

A. Policy Statement

The intent of this policy is to protect the health and safety of patients, staff and visitors who work, reside in, or have access to State-operated residential buildings or daycare centers on the grounds of State-operated facilities, by establishing guidelines for the temperature of hot water used in such facilities. Serious burns can happen with hot water, even at a comparatively low temperature, depending on the age and/or medical condition of the person involved and the person's total time of exposure.

This policy directive shall apply to all inpatient or residential programs operated by the Office of Mental Health, and to all day care centers operated on property owned by the Office of Mental Health.

B. Relevant Statutes and Standards

10 NYCRR Part 713-1.18

14NYCRR Part 77.4

14NYCRR Part 635-7.3

C. Body of the Directive

1) Water Temperature

The hot water temperature provided at all sinks, lavatories, bathtubs and showers that are accessible to patients, staff, or visitors in all residential buildings and all day-care centers on Office of Mental Health property, shall be set at a sufficiently low degree so as to avoid the potential to burn children or the elderly. Under no conditions shall said water temperature exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit at the source of generation, or exceed 110 degrees Fahrenheit at any bath tub, shower, or similar location.

2) Monitoring

- a) The temperature of the water shall be measured and recorded at least weekly, while hot water is being run, using either electronic, mechanical or manual means at both:
 - i) the point of entry into each building; if provided externally; and
 - ii) all points of hot water generation within the building (e.g. heat exchangers, hot water heaters on specific floors, etc.).
- b) The temperature of the water shall also be verified manually, at least quarterly, at four different bath tubs or showers on each floor in each building.
- c) At least once a year the recording/testing equipment used in this process shall be manually calibrated or verified.
- d) Test records shall be kept and available for review for a period of at least three years.
- e) Staff shall be trained annually through the facilities' safety curriculum training program on the causes and prevention of scalding burns and are required to review the results of the testing requirements in 2(a-c). Additionally if any staff of the Office of Mental Health have any cause to believe that the water exceeds the limit of 110 degrees Fahrenheit, i.e. if they cannot comfortably keep their hand in the hot water stream for 10 seconds,

<p style="text-align: center;">State of New York OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">OMH OFFICIAL POLICY MANUAL</p>	<p>Date Issued 02-08-02</p>	<p>T. L. 02-01</p>	<p>Section # OM-720</p>
	<p>Section Operational Management</p>		
	<p>Directive Testing of Water Temperature in Residential Building and Daycare Centers</p>		

they must initiate retesting of the temperature in accordance with a process established by the facility.