



Residential & Community Services:
Residential, Day Habilitation, Respite,
Self-Direction & Fiscal Intermediary Services

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EFFECTIVE TUESDAY MARCH 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of ACDS Residents:

In light of the unprecedented public health challenges posed by COVID-19, ACDS must comply with the following guidelines implemented by the Department of Health (DOH), Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

In order to lessen the risks to our residents, and the risks to our vital staff who support them in these homes, until further notice we are implementing the following health and safety measures for all ACDS residences:

- Visitation within any ACDS residence will be prohibited, unless the purpose of the visit is essential for maintenance, clinical or health reasons. This measure will reduce community traffic into our residences and reduce the risk of infection being brought into our shared living spaces.
 - Any medical or clinical staff will be screened before entry and will be required to answer the following questions. Anyone who answers YES to any of the questions will not be permitted to enter:
 - Have you traveled to a country for which the CDC has issued a Level 2 or 3 travel designation within the last 14 days (Japan, Nigeria, Congo, Asia, Africa, Venezuela, Iran, South Korea, China and Italy)?
 - To your knowledge, have you had contact with any Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19 within the last 14 days or anyone with known COVID-19?
 - Do you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection (e.g., cough, sore throat, fever, or shortness of breath)?
- Essential doctor visits will continue as needed using the agency's discretion. Many providers are utilizing telehealth and we will participate in those sessions as able and appropriate. ACDS staff will take our residents to all appointments and will follow up with families to keep them apprised.
- Visits to families' homes, or family excursions including any ACDS resident, will not be permitted. This measure will ensure that our resident has not been exposed to a potential source of infection while outside the residence. It is essential to protecting the health of our residential community and essential staff.
- **Therefore, families who feel it is in their best interest, or the best interest of their loved one, to reside at their own home during this crisis, rather than with ACDS, must understand that the resident's return will not be possible for a minimum of 2-3 months or until the current COVID-19 threat has passed as determined by DOH, CDC, and OPWDD guidelines.**

Please know that we are taking these precautions in accordance with guidelines from the DOH, CDC, and OPWDD. We know you are missing your loved ones and we are happy to arrange telephone calls or to assist in setting up video conferencing so you can stay in touch during this challenging period. We thank you for sharing in our commitment to ensuring the health and safety of all ACDS residents and staff.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Smith

Executive Director
ACDS

Erica Lepurage

Director of Community &
Residential Services
ACDS