



MEMO

TO: Families and Guardians of Individuals in Residential Care
FROM: Jennifer Rush, Vice President of Residential Services
RE: Updated Guidelines for Residential Visits
DATE: October 7, 2020

DDS recently updated their visitation guidelines to allow for indoor visits. We will conduct them in only two designated locations--one in Pittsfield and one in Westfield. Outdoor visits may continue to occur weather permitting.

In order to minimize risk to all our residents and staff, we will be opening the following locations for visits to occur indoors as of October 14th:

- Berkshire County visits will be scheduled at our respite house at 123 Wealthy Ave. in Pittsfield. Times available will be Wednesdays/Thursdays from 12:00pm-6:00pm and Saturdays 12:00pm-4:00pm.
- Pioneer Valley visits will be scheduled in our BC Arc office at 94 North Elm Street, Westfield. Times available are early weekday evenings and weekend days as staff are able.

The following criteria must be in place for indoor visits:

- The Program where the resident lives must not have any confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in residents or staff in the past 14 days.
- Hand hygiene must be performed upon entering the visit site.
- DDS Attestation must be completed. This attestation is the same one currently being used for outdoor visits.
- Face masks or face coverings must be worn by visitors and staff at all times; residents will also be encouraged to wear face coverings during an indoor visit if they can tolerate it and do so safely.
- A visitor must remain at least 6 feet from the resident and staff member(s) to the maximum extent feasible.
- Shared meals will not be allowed during this time.

Please contact the Site Manager of the program to request a time slot. Visits will need to be kept to 50 minutes in order to properly sanitize between visits.

We appreciate your flexibility as we all work to keep everyone safe during this pandemic. Thank you for all your patience and understanding.