

MEMO

TO: All Residential Managers
FROM: Jennifer Rush, VP of Residential Services
RE: Update on Visitations
DATE: February 17, 2021

As you know we set a condition of counties being at or below 3% positivity rate for three consecutive weeks before we consider implementing visits again. Berkshire County has achieved this marker with 2.75%, 2.25% then 1.75%, clearly trending down. Pioneer Valley has not. They are currently over 6%.

We considered both positivity rates and the new CDC and Board of Health guidance which now states that anyone that is 2 weeks POST second vaccinations does not have to be quarantined if exposed to a positive. Based on this information, the following new guidelines apply to only Berkshire County Programs at this time. Once Pioneer Valley reaches 3 consecutive weeks of at or below 3%, the same will apply:

In program visits

Effective immediately, we will begin scheduling family visits at Wealthy Ave in the same manner that we conducted them earlier.

Overnight visits to family

Houses must be 2 weeks POST the second round of vaccinations at which time individuals that have been vaccinated can schedule a home visit. If an individual has not accepted the vaccination, the house still must be post 2 weeks AND everyone in that family home must give a negative COVID result 72 hours prior to a visit. These test must be conducted through the state program "STOP THE SPREAD" by families calling 855-262-5465. Results must be submitted to you as manager with a copy to Nursing Directors.

Community Outings

With Supervisory approval, community outings can occur once the house is 2 weeks POST second vaccination AND individuals are wearing masks. This applies only to individuals that have been vaccinated. While not encouraged at this time, these outing can take place in accordance with state guidance and can include in store purchases, haircuts etc. At this time, individuals not vaccinated can't resume community outings. We will need to see a prolonged downward trend of the positivity rate before we can consider this. We still encourage socially distanced outdoor outings weather permitting.

Day Program

Based on this guidance, Day programs will begin to consider individuals returning on a staggered basis. Cybele Kilby, Director of Day Services will be reaching out as more information is finalized.

This update is subject to any changes in CDC and BOH guidance. We will also consider suspending these guidelines if the positivity rate begins to trend upwards.