

Meeting Life's Challenges

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November 5, 2020

Dear families and friends,



As many of you are aware, experts are predicting a resurgence of COVID 19 this winter. In response, Governor Cuomo announced a new "Cluster Action Initiative" intended to contain the spreading of virus beyond areas that are designated as "hot spots." In keeping with this initiative, OPWDD has issued guidance regarding the suspension or restriction of services and visitations, as well as testing recommendations for programs located in COVID "hot spots" designated by the State of New York. These hot spots represent a geographical area experiencing high COVID infection rates. This guidance became effective on October 25, and while we do not currently have any homes or programs located in a COVID hot spot, we are preparing for the possibility that at least some may become hot spots from time to time in the coming months.

Under this guidance, day services may need to be temporarily suspended or attendance limited if they are located in a designated COVID hot spot. The potential impact on our residences is that visitation and community outings may be temporarily suspended or limited. We will be sure to alert families and individuals as soon as possible if a program or residence becomes affected because of a COVID hot spot designation.

Living Resources understands the importance of reducing a second wave, while also being aware of the significant impact program closures and visitation restrictions place on families. We will continue to keep you updated as news becomes available and will communicate to you as quickly as possible. As always, protecting all of you, those we support, and our staff will always be our highest priority.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to me at <u>emartin@livingresources.org</u> or 518-218-0000 x 5530 or to Steve Klein, Associate Executive Director for Program Services at <u>sklein@livingresources.org</u> or 518-218-0000 x 4312.

Best regards for your health and safety,

Elizabeth Martin Chief Executive Officer

