



Meeting Life's Challenges

300 Washington Avenue Extension  
Albany, NY 12203-7303  
518/218-0000

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Dear families and friends,

Each day we are hearing of the rapid rise in COVID positive cases throughout the Capital Region, which is extremely disheartening. **We know that by following pandemic protocols we can lessen the spread! We urge everyone to continue to wear masks, wash your hands frequently, disinfect frequently touched objects, socially distance, and decrease exposure to anyone outside of your immediate family.**

Currently, we have had a number of individuals that we support and staff members test positive for the virus and have had several day and residential programs go on precautionary quarantines for potential exposures. Fortunately to-date, no one has been seriously ill, and it is important to note that many are asymptomatic. What we are witnessing first hand is the spread of this virus by those that are asymptomatic.

Last month, we notified you of Governor Cuomo's cluster zone strategy aimed at decreasing the spread of the Coronavirus. We stated that this strategy may impact our residences and our programs, and it has. Earlier this week our site-based day programs temporarily suspended services and we are no longer sending any individuals in our residential program to day site-based programs operated by other agencies. It is imperative that we do this to contain any further spread.

Additionally, we are sad to report that individuals in our residential programs are not permitted to go to indoor dining establishments while COVID infection rates remain so high. We are doing this to decrease contact with other diners who would also not be wearing masks. This is for the safety of everyone, including our individuals, their fellow housemates, and staff.

Currently, home visits are still allowed, but please do not bring family members to restaurants or any other public setting where masks are not worn by all in attendance. **It only takes one asymptomatic person to spread this virus to the whole family, so please do not expose your family member to large family gatherings or any other crowded setting.**

On Friday, we received notice that individuals who live in OPWDD certified residences, as well as staff, are designated in Phase 1A for the distribution of the SARS-CoV-2 the virus that causes COVID-19. We are still uncertain of the timing for distribution. While waiting for news about the timing, we will move ahead with obtaining the necessary consents to avoid any delays for our individuals to receive the vaccination when it is available. We are hopeful that this is an indication of healthier times ahead and will share information as it becomes available.

Our goal is to prevent the spread of this virus and I know that with your help we can do our part. Now is not the time to waiver in our goal, we must not become complacent!

Should you have any questions, please reach out to me at [emartin@livingresources.org](mailto:emartin@livingresources.org) or 518-218-0000 x 5530 or to Steve Klein, Associate Executive Director for Program Services at [sklein@livingresources.org](mailto:sklein@livingresources.org) or 518-218-0000 x 4312.

Best regards for your health and safety,

Elizabeth Martin  
Chief Executive Officer

