



*Meeting Life's Challenges*

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May 20, 2021

Dear Families & Friends:

With all the news surrounding the CDC's recent announcement regarding mask policies, I am sure you are wondering what is the procedure at Living Resources. It is important to remember that our homes and our day programs must follow OPWDD regulations and requirements. On Monday, OPWDD provided their updated guidance, however, very little changed with respect to how we operate with the exception that individuals and staff members that have been fully vaccinated and have had a COVID-19 exposure but have no symptoms are no longer required to quarantine or isolate.

The following guidelines still remain in place per OPWDD:

- 1) All staff (regardless of vaccination status) must remain masked while working in our homes or day programs;
- 2) All visits to the homes must continue to be scheduled (and visitation is not allowed in homes that are in mandatory quarantine or isolation) and all visitors must remain masked regardless of vaccination status;
- 3) Transportation is still limited to 50% capacity, which impacts our day community opportunity program and the amount of individuals we can support in-person logistically; and
- 4) Site-Based Day Programs must still provide six-foot distancing. The good news here is that with our renovations and expansions completed, we were able to bring back everyone in that program.

Each week we continue to hear of the staffing crisis affecting many businesses and Living Resources is no different. As we shared last month, we are currently facing workforce shortages which directly impacts our ability to provide in-person services to all we support. While we continue to market, advertise, and search for new and innovative approaches to locating potential superhero staff members, we can always use a helping hand. So, if you know of a caring person who might be a wonderful addition to the Living Resources team, please send them our way! The application process can be accessed on our website at [www.livingresources.org](http://www.livingresources.org) or your contact could reach out directly to Lisa Razanousky, HR Department at [lisa.razanousky@livingresources.org](mailto:lisa.razanousky@livingresources.org).

Additionally, while our homes and day programs must follow OPWDD guidance and regulations, we see the CDC and NYS guidance toward releasing masking policies if you are fully vaccinated as a hopeful indication that OPWDD may also update their guidance. **PLEASE GET VACCINATED TODAY SO WE CAN ALL BE READY, WHEN THE GUIDANCE ALLOWS, TO SEE EACH OTHER'S SMILES!**

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

Best regards for your health and safety,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Martin".

Elizabeth Martin  
Chief Executive Officer

