



Meeting Life's Challenges

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

January 5, 2022

Dear Families & Friends:

Given the recent COVID-19 surge throughout the state, OPWDD has issued new guidance on Interim Visitation for Certified Residential Facilities. This new guidance is dated January 4, 2022 and takes **effect immediately**.

- 1) **All visits to the homes must be scheduled ahead of time and approved by the provider agency (and visitation is not allowed in homes that are in mandatory quarantine or isolation).** Visits shall be staggered so as not to have multiple families visiting in a shared space at one time and to ensure adequate time to clean any common areas or high touch surfaces between visits.
- 2) **All visitors must remain masked regardless of vaccination status and visitors who refuse to wear a face mask must be asked to leave the facility;**
- 3) All visitors should be 18 years of age or older, except in rare exceptions as determined by the facility;
- 4) Prior to each scheduled visit, visitors must undergo symptom and temperature checks by facility staff and shall be denied visitation if they report any COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior 14 days, or have a temperature over 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.

For a complete list of the guidance, visit

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/1.4.22-updated-visitation-guidance-for-residential-facilities.pdf>

We understand that these guidelines are restrictive, however, we are committed to allowing you to visit your loved ones at the residence. **In order to schedule a visit, please contact the house manager or Assistant Director at least 72 hours prior to requested visit.** They will work with you to set up a scheduled visitation.

The safety and health of you, your family, and our staff is our highest priority; we sincerely appreciate your support. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Richard, Associate Executive Director for Programs at 518-218-0000 x 5537.

Please remember to be kind, we are all doing our best to follow the guidelines as they are received. We will notify you, should these guidelines change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elizabeth Martin, CEO