



VISITATION GUIDANCE FOR OPWDD CERTIFIED RESIDENCES

JUNE 19, 2020

On March 14, 2020 OPWDD issued a Health Advisory: COVID-19 Cases in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (IDD) which suspended visits within these facilities. On March 18, 2020, OPWDD extended the guidance to Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRAs), Community Residences (CRs) referred to as “Certified Residential Facilities.”

The separation of residents from their loved ones can cause significant stress and anxiety, and new strategies were needed going forward to extend the opportunity to visit residents of certified residential facilities in a manner that continues to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the health and wellbeing of residents, staff, and visitors.

The visitation program for certified residential facilities will begin on June 19, 2020. In order to be eligible for visitation under this guidance, the facility must ATTEST to its ability to adhere to the following requirements:

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- Provider sets visitation hours.
- Visits must be schedule in advance and approved by the agency. Visits are staggered to avoid having more than 1 family in a shared space and allow for sanitizing between visits.
- All residents should be notified of all visits and reminded how to remain socially distant.
- Potential risks of visitors should be discussed with the resident and the visitor before visit.
- Multiple visitors, where allowed, should be from same household and be 18 yrs. old or older. Rare exceptions are determined by the provider.
- Visitors must undergo a symptom and temperature check by house staff and shall be denied if in the last 14 days were exposed to COVID-19, exhibited symptoms or a temp. over 100 F.
- Visitors must wear a mask whenever social distancing is not possible. Provider will provide mask if needed.
- Visitors must sanitize hands upon arrival and practice good hand hygiene during visit.
- Visitation should occur outdoors when applicable, masks worn whenever social distancing is not possible. May not take place in a non-agency vehicle or off the premises unless accompanied by staff.
- Visitors will be notified if of any positive or suspected cases in the home.
- A daily log of visitors will be kept to include names, contact info and where visit occurred.

Please contact your provider for their specific policies and procedures.

[View complete guidance here](#)

