

TO: Visitors to Psychiatric Rehab (PRD) Group Living Environments (GLE) and Developmental Service (DS) Residential Programs

FROM: Jeanne Russo, Senior Vice President; Joseph Gomes, Senior Vice President;

DATE: October 5, 2020

RE: Visitation Policy: Vinfen Residential Programs Who Cannot Accept Visitors Indoors in Massachusetts

We understand how difficult it has been for family members and friends to stay connected to loved one's during this pandemic of COVID 19. In particular the inability to visit loved ones that reside in residential programs has been very difficult for both the individual living in the program and the family member or friend. This precaution is necessary however, in order to ensure that the spread of the COVID 19 virus is contained.

Our Massachusetts state funders have now determined that inside visitation may now be permitted at some homes, unfortunately, at this time, your loved one's residence is not able to accept visitors indoors due to limitations within the physical space to allow for safe, private visitation.

Weather permitting, outdoor visitation may be allowed. Please feel free to reach out to the residential manager for your home to discuss other potential options and support you may require to keep you engaged with your family member.

Designated Outdoor Visits

- Visitors will be permitted in a designated outdoor area, such as a yard, patio, open porches, parking lot or driveway.
- No enclosed outdoor spaces, such as a tent, will be allowed.
- Visits will be limited to 2 visitors at one time.
- Children and at-risk people are strongly encouraged to remain home.
- Only one visit may occur at a program at one time.
- No outdoor parties, gatherings, or barbeques are allowed.
- Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in the visit being terminated.

Visitor Screening

- All visitors must be screened prior to visiting with a resident. If the home is located in a high transmission area as defined by the Department of Public Health visitation may be suspended in that home.

- Visitors are not permitted to visit if they have symptoms of COVID 19 including felt feverish, fever, had chills, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, abdominal pain, unexplained rash, fatigue, headache, new loss of smell/taste, new muscle aches, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
- Anyone with a fever of 100.0 or higher will not be permitted to visit under any circumstances – visitors will have their temperatures taken upon arrival.
- Visitors are not permitted to visit if they have tested positive for COVID 19 in the past 14 days or if they have been ordered by a health care professional or local board of health official to quarantine due to exposure.
- Visitors or visitors with household members who have traveled out of state in the last 14 days may not be permitted to visit depending on the governor’s guidance around travel outside of the state.
- Any individual who participates in a visitation and develops signs and symptoms of COVID 19 within 2 days after the visitation must immediately notify the home of the date they were on site, the individuals they were in contact with, and the locations where the visit occurred.

Face Masks

- All visitors are required to wear a face covering during the visit. The visitor should bring their own face covering with them.
- Residents will be encouraged to wear face coverings during the visit.

Social Distancing and Supervision

- Visitors and residents must follow social distancing guidelines and remain 6 feet apart at all times.
- A staff member will remain with the resident at all times during the visit.

Disinfecting the Visitation Area

- If the designated outdoor area includes chairs, tables, or a picnic bench, all surfaces must be disinfected using an EPA-approved disinfectant for use against SARS-CoV-2 after each visit.
- Indoor visitation areas must also be disinfected using an EPA-approved disinfectant for use against SARS-CoV-2 after each visit.
- The facilities department can direct you as to which disinfectants are to be used if in doubt.

Scheduling Visits in Advance

- Visits must be scheduled with the Residential Manager at least 72 hours in advance to allow for coordination among visitors and to ensure adequate staffing is available.
- No more than two visitors may visit at a time.
- No more than two visits per day for the home.

- It is preferable that visits last no longer than 60 minutes to limit exposure of all involved.
- All Vinfen homes will continue to support alternative electronic methods for communication between residents and loved ones such as Skype, FaceTime, WhatsApp or Google Duo.

Thank you everyone, we hope that you and the residents are all coping as well as can be expected with this situation. If you have any questions, please speak with your local Residential Manager. Let's all stay healthy and safe during these difficult times!