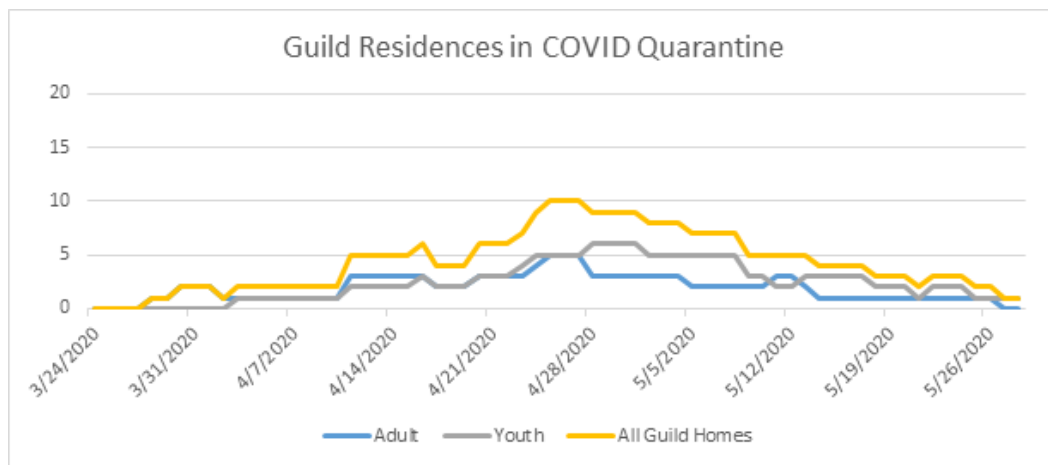




## 5/26/2020 – COVID-19 Update from [Amy C. Sousa, Chief Executive Officer](#)

Dear Guild Community,

Like most of Massachusetts and the nation, The Guild is beginning to benefit from our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. Through this public health crisis, The Guild has experienced as many as 10 residences in quarantine simultaneously; as of today, we have one house quarantined due to COVID exposure.



Despite this substantial improvement over the COVID surge, we are acutely aware that today marks a somber point in the pandemic: The United States has experienced more than 100,000 COVID-related deaths, most of which have occurred just in the last two months. This number is made even more concerning knowing that there are numerous spikes in areas in which restrictions have been lifted.

### Family Visitation

Given the precarious situation, The Guild is following the [directive of the Department of Developmental Services' \(DDS\)](#) to restrict all visitation to group home residences for the time being. We know that these restrictions create a great amount of stress and heartbreak for individuals and families. DDS Commissioner Jane Ryder is seeking [feedback on visitation restrictions](#) and day program closures. We encourage Guild families to access that communication channel with DDS as we know many of you have thoughts, information, and feelings that you would like to share.

In the meantime, The Guild is planning a phased approach to reinstating in-person family and community connections, beginning with parent/guardian visitation at group homes. Implementation of these visitation plans will be determined by combination of medical assessment, data analysis, and government regulators' directions. But, again, we must wait for clearance from DDS prior to beginning any of these visitation plans.

### **The Guild School**

Likewise, The Guild School will continue with group home and remote learning until at least July 6, 2020. At that time, we hope to reopen portions of in-person programming at our main school building. But, like visitation, The Guild School's decision to reinstitute in-person learning will depend on medical assessment, data analysis, and government regulators' directions. We do not want our eagerness to go back to "normal" to have life-altering consequences for those we serve.

The Guild staff continues to make every effort to use electronic communication methods to keep people connected during this time. And, as always, you are welcome to share your thoughts, feelings, and frustrations with your individual's team leadership or with me directly.

Thank you for all that you are doing to help us through this extraordinary time. We will continue to work to figure out what comes next and share information as it becomes available.

Take care,

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