



July 2, 2020

Dear Guild Community:

Per order of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), congregate care facilities in Massachusetts will permit residents to engage in off-site visitation, including overnight visits, under the conditions listed in this [policy](#) effective July 3, 2020. Upon return to group homes, residents will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19; however, they will not be required to undergo a COVID-19 test nor will they be required to quarantine or self-isolate within the residence, unless the individual demonstrates symptoms or close contact with a positive COVID-19 case. As part of the visit, visitors will be required to attest to the items in this [form](#).

Given that the most recent, prior direction from DDS allowed for only limited, outdoor visits, this is a big change. For some of you, this change will be met with great enthusiasm; while for others, this rapid turnabout may raise concerns for the health and safety of your resident. Please know that The Guild will do everything in our control to maintain safe and healthy residences; however, this visitation policy vastly expands the number of close contacts for each individual, house, and community. As we have learned in the last three months, increasing the number of contacts means increasing the number of infections. As such, The Guild implores each family to use extreme caution when visiting your resident either at The Guild or during off-site visits as the health and safety of our entire community is dependent upon the thought, care, and good judgment of each of us.

Per our usual protocol, please schedule visits with your residential house manager in advance of pick up. The Guild will continue with social distancing measures during pick up and, per order of DDS, we cannot allow any visitation if a house is in quarantine. Currently, The Guild has one residential home operating in a quarantine state; however, this is subject to change moment-to-moment. Please confirm your off-site visit with your residential staff immediately prior to ensure availability.

As always, if you have questions or thoughts you'd like to share, please contact the residential leadership team or me directly.

Take care,

Amy C. Sousa

Chief Executive Officer

Email: asousa@guildhumanservices.org / Cell: 781-330-5189