



September 21, 2020

Dear Guild Community:

As we shared with you in our [August 28, 2020 COVID update](#), the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) requires residential group homes and schools to establish baseline COVID tests for all employees no later than September 30, 2020 as well as plans for ongoing COVID-19 testing.

We have partnered with the Broad Institute of MIT/Harvard to perform the testing and have begun testing in earnest. The first 175 results have been reported; out of which, three staff members have tested positive, though asymptomatic. Each of those three staff members works in different youth residences; so we have quarantined three houses - Sassafras, Chestnut, and Dogwood.

The remainder of The Guild's 564 staff members will be tested by the September 30, 2020 deadline. Additionally, given our geographic position in EMS Region 3, which is also demonstrating increased levels of positive COVID testing, it is likely that we will be required to test all staff every two weeks moving forward.

We will keep you abreast of any changes in our COVID status and inform you directly if your individual/child has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Quarantine FAQs

How will I be notified if my individual's/child's residence needs to quarantine?

A house will be quarantined in the event that a resident has a presumptive or diagnosed case of COVID-19 or if a staff member in that house has a diagnosed case of COVID-19. If and when this occurs, information will be shared with public health officials, family members, and people in close contact. The Guild will call guardians individually if their individual/child has been diagnosed or in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

What does a quarantine look like at The Guild?

The treatment and care for an individual with COVID-19 is determined by medical professionals. The Guild's response is governed by those directions as well as by the guidance of public health officials. In general terms, qualified Guild staff work extended hours to support the individuals served and limit the spread of COVID-19 infection. These employees remain isolated in the

residence 24/7 for one week at a time with one week renewals offered as needed by The Guild and as accepted by employees. Individuals and staff members are provided with personal protective equipment as appropriate. Deep cleaning of the residence is provided. Supplies are delivered to the doorstep as needed throughout the quarantine period. Daily activities within the residence continue so long as individuals are well enough to participate.

How long does a quarantine last?

Quarantines last for 14 days from last contact with an individual infected with the COVID-19 virus. In the event that additional individuals within the house become symptomatic and/or test positive for COVID-19, the quarantine period is extended according to the new infection date.

How will I keep in contact with my child through this extended process and learn what's happening with her/him?

- All parents/guardians should have access to daily electronic communication with their individuals/children, i.e. email, Facetime, Go-to-Meeting, etc.
- All parents/guardians are sent weekly email updates from youth and adult residential programs with activity descriptions and pictures.
- Each Guild School student has a remote learning plan that includes access to curriculum, specialists, teachers, and peers.
- The Guild is available for electronic IEP and ISP meetings with families and LEAs/government officials for the duration of the crisis.

I'm sorry to bring this news to you after such a delightful, COVID-free summer. If you have ongoing questions about your individual's/child's experience at The Guild during this unprecedented time, please do not hesitate to reach out to her/his residential manager or clinical team. And, as always, you are welcome to contact me directly.

Be well,

Amy C. Sousa
Chief Executive Officer
Email: asousa@guildhumanservices.org
Cell: 781-330-5189