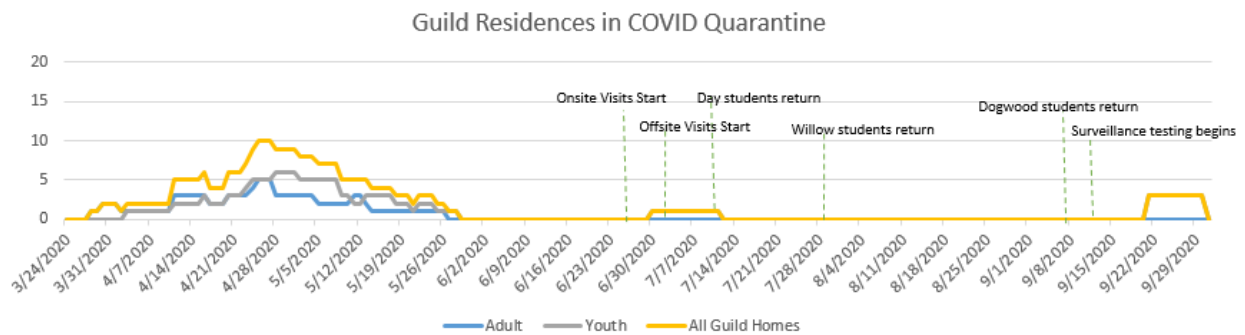




October 1, 2020

Dear Guild Community:

As you know, 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. On September 21, The Guild shared news with you that we had three asymptomatic staff members test positive for COVID-19 during the baseline testing. As a result, we quarantined three youth houses, Chestnut, Dogwood, and Sassafra. Today, those students have moved out of quarantine! The Guild currently has zero houses in COVID quarantine.



In addition, The Guild has completed baseline testing of 372 employees. We are pleased to report that we have no additional positive tests. Furthermore, we conducted COVID-19 tests 86 individuals in our care; all of those tests have returned with negative results. Thank you to everyone – staff, individuals, and families - for working so diligently to implement COVID safety precautions. This first round of testing was successful because of you.

<b>The Guild's COVID-19 Surveillance Testing, Aug 1 – Sept 30, 2020</b>				
	<b># Tested</b>	<b># Positive</b>	<b># Negative</b>	<b>% Positive</b>
<b>Individuals Served</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Staff</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>0.65%</b>

Now, The Guild is moving into the surveillance testing phase in which all staff will receive COVID-19 testing every two weeks. 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.

### **Visitation at The Guild**

With impending cold weather, many of you have asked for updates on visitation protocols at The Guild. All residents continue to be permitted to engage in off-site visitation, including overnight visits, as well as outdoor onsite at The Guild as outlined in [The Guild's July 2, 2020 update](#). However, The Guild's governing agencies have not issued consistent guidance across adult and youth programs for indoor visitation.

### **Adult Residences**

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) released [new guidance for visitation for ADULT residents](#). Beginning October 1, 2020, adult residents will be allowed to have visitors on-site at The Guild, if they are not otherwise able to visit with loved ones off-site.

In order to keep the infection rate low, we must continue with social distancing directives from public health officials and government licensors. As such, all visits must be scheduled and approved by the residential manager for each home to ensure that The Guild can maintain the proper social distance and cleaning procedures. Additionally, visits are subject to change based health and safety concerns of a specific house, including but not limited to house

quarantine. Please review [The Guild's updated visitation protocols](#) for specific information on visitors' rights and responsibilities.

### **Youth Residences**

The Guild anticipates that EOHHS will release similar guidance to DDS allowing for limited, indoor visitation at all congregate care facilities in the near future; however, that guidance has not been released yet. Unfortunately, without such direction, The Guild School must continue to restrict indoor visitation for youth families.

This marks the first time during this pandemic that The Guild has issued differential protocols for youth and adult protections and visitation. The Guild will continue to press the Commonwealth for updated guidance to restore equity between the programs' policies. In the meantime, The Guild's residential leadership team will work with families and loved ones to create opportunities for outdoor, off-site, and electronic visitation for youth residents. We will apprise you immediately when we receive information on youth visitation from EOHHS or our youth facility regulator, Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC).

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

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