



## COVID-19 UPDATES-11/19/20

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### ENHANCED MEASURES TO REDUCE RISK OF COVID-19 EXPOSURE

Dear Families,

We are writing to share the following enhanced measures that are being implemented to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure. While most of Monroe County is currently in the yellow zone, if in the future our services fall into the orange or red cluster zones, Lifetime Assistance, Inc., would adhere to the requirements from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the NYS Governor for those cluster zones. These would include, but not be limited to further suspension of day services and site based vocational services and additional limitations on visits in homes.

The enhanced measures will remain in place for the foreseeable future. While we are hopeful about the recent news of potential vaccines, we anticipate and are preparing for the potential implementation of more restrictive measures in the near future.

#### I. **Enhanced Measures in Residential and Family Care Homes Operated by Lifetime Assistance.**

- **Suspension of attendance at Day Habilitation and Site Based Pre-Vocational Services** (provided by any agency) for people who live in our homes will begin at the close of business on Wednesday, 11/25/2020, and will remain in effect until further notice. Alternatives to attending services outside of the home will be offered as follows:
  - For people who live in Lifetime Assistance homes and attend Lifetime Day Habilitation Services, Day Habilitation Services will be provided within their Lifetime Assistance home.
  - For people who live in Lifetime Assistance homes and attend Day Services operated by another agency, Community Habilitation R services will be provided within their Lifetime Assistance home.
- **Limitations on community outings** will begin Monday, 11/23/2020, and will continue until further notice. Community outings will be limited to only those that are essential/necessary for the emotional or physical wellbeing of the person and are low exposure risk. Low risk activities are defined as those with limited or no contact with others. People we support and staff will continue to be required to wear masks and social distance when out in the community.
- **Visitors:** Strict adherence to the current safety measures of health checks, wearing of masks, social distancing, limited numbers, limited time of the visit, and prearranged and approved visits by a member of the leadership team will continue.

- **Visit to a Family Member's Home:** The current strict measures of health checks, prearranged/preapproved visits from a member of the leadership team, and the requirement of a detailed list of contacts while on family visits will continue. The following additional measures will be put in place:
  - Beginning Monday, 11/23/2020, families will be asked to comply with the Governor's requirements of limiting indoor and outdoor gatherings in their private residence to ten (10) people and to agree to not take their family member into the community while on their home visit, unless their family member can social distance, wear a mask, and the event/activity is in compliance with the Governor's requirements.
  - When the person returns to their Lifetime home, they will be required to wear a mask when in common areas or isolate in their room to the best of their ability for a minimum of 48 hours upon their return. Upon staff confirmation that no one with whom the person had contact while on their visit has developed symptoms or tested positive, then the wearing of a mask and/or isolation within their Lifetime home can be discontinued. Families will also be advised that, should they desire, they can keep their family member for longer periods of time over the holidays.

As always, we appreciate your support as we continue to navigate the ever changing rules and safeguards we must put in place for the COVID-19 pandemic to keep your family members and our staff as safe as possible.

Please contact the Director(s) of your family member's services for any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pam Price, Vice President  
Nancy Ballaron, Vice President  
Joanna Davis, Vice President