



June 19, 2020

Dear Pathfinder Families,

Week 14, Day 5 ... there were three big highlights this week at Pathfinder Village:

1. Our famous Produce Market reopened to the public Thursday.
2. New York's Governor announced that family visitations could resume at certified group homes.
3. The sun was out every day 😊.

My message to you this week is solely about Family Visitations. First, thank you for responding to last week's email survey. I know the extended on-campus visitation option is not ideal for many families, but it was the best option available at the time. Low and behold, once again, our Governor surprised us with an Executive Order allowing family visitations at group homes. Yesterday, OPWDD published their guidance for these visits. [I have attached a copy for your review.](#)

Your feedback, as well as your family member's feedback, is not in-line with the State's thinking about family visits. Also, we worry about the lack of suitable space in our homes for a safe and private visit; it does put staff and residents at greater risk of infection and may create significant disruption to other individuals in the residence. Offering just one option by restricting it to the residence and then managing the visit in the manner outlined in the guideline is unacceptable to Pathfinder Village! In addition, the State continues to not allow off-campus visits to family homes which is what a majority of our residents and families need and want.

In response to the Governor's Order, we are requesting approval to move forward with two options (click each option to see specific details):

- A. [Extended on-campus visitations](#) (current option)
- B. [Brief on-campus, outdoor visitations](#) (located at the Pavilion for campus homes and backdoor decks for off-campus homes)

We are asking the State of New York if we can commence the brief visitations June 29th and extended visitations July 16th.

“ that each life may find meaning”[®]

3 Chenango Road · Edmeston, New York 13335-2314
(607) 965-8377 · www.pathfindervillage.org

Our visitation plan will require reserving visits ahead of time, on identified days. We have blocked out Mondays and Tuesdays for brief visitations (up to 1-hour) between the hours of 10 am-1 pm, and 2-5 pm. The window for extended visitations will take place between Wednesday evenings through Saturday mornings (blocked times with time for housekeeping to clean/disinfect).

For families who responded to our extended visitation email last week, Sally Trosset will reach out to you Monday to discuss reserving your visit in July. For families requesting a brief visitation, contact Sally at 607-965-8377 or strosset@pathfindervillage.org to reserve your visit.

Again, both are pending State approval.

Wednesday, I discussed family visitations with your House Managers; they understand and appreciate your patience through all this. They feel the extended on-campus visitation plan is a good interim solution but feel off-campus visits are what everyone is looking forward to. Many brought up good points/questions regarding off-campus visits to family homes such as, “Will there be others in the family home during the visit that do not live there?” and “Will we suggest or mandate the types of activities during the home visit?” I share this with you to highlight that your managers are well-versed in this COVID-prevention arena and care deeply about the health and safety of your family member.

We are all looking forward to seeing you on our campus again soon.

Monday, we begin our café and shopping simulations for residents in The Commons building. Residents will enjoy these added activities while practicing wearing masks and physical distancing. We want all our folks to be successful when they engage in the new COVID communities. Kudos to our day service staff for launching this program.

Our school re-opens July 6th with about 70% of students returning. Staff are preparing the school to welcome students back.

In-person medical appointments are going well, while we continue to utilize tele-health appointments.

Happy Father’s Day to all our Pathfinder dads! [Here is a link](#) to Pastor Doug’s special Father’s Day Service that will be available for your loved ones to watch – please join in from home.

Enjoy the weekend. Be well.



Paul C. Landers, President & Chief Executive Officer

planders@pathfindervillage.org

607-965-8377 ext. 102