

July 14, 2020

Dear Pathfinder Families,

Last Friday night, 7:30pm to be exact, the OPWDD Commissioner informed providers throughout NY State of four new COVID 19 re-opening protocols (plans due to OPWDD by July 15th):

1. Home visits (off-site)
2. Community Outings
3. Re-entry from extended home visits
4. Day Services resuming

Needless to say, planning, communicating and implementing all of these new protocols in less than a week is a bit of a magic act. With that said, I ask for your continued patience.

I am so delighted that we can resume family visits off campus. It has been a long haul for you and your loved one. You have my full support with this re-opening activity! In order to get our off-campus home visit protocol drafted and communicated to our staff and families, home visits will resume July 24th. Here are a view highlights of the home visit requirements:

1. No home visits allowed to states that are on the NY Travel Advisory List (updated weekly).
2. We will not be able to provide transportation at this time.
3. Families will have to sign a visitation attestation prior to and after every visit home disclosing details about the visit including; activities, contact with people outside the family home, locations, etc. The attestation is intrusive but is also required by the State.
4. Health screening of resident before and after visit (health questions and temp check).
5. Comply with general COVID 19 practices (masks, hand washing, physical distancing, avoid inside and outside crowds)

Families will receive a detailed home visitation protocol via email by the end of the week. Home visits should be coordinated with your House Manager or RTL. We will continue to host on-campus visitations (brief and extended) for a period of time. These are coordinated through Sally Trosset.

In addition to the Home Visitation protocol, you will receive our Community Outings and Re-Entry protocols Friday. Community Outings, Re-Entry and Pathfinder Day Services re-opening activities will commence on or about July 27th. If your family member attends an off-site day program (non-Pathfinder program), you should contact your day provider to learn more about their re-opening plans.

Thank you again for your time and attention, if you have questions in the meantime, please call me. Happy Tuesday Pathfinder Families!



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