



COVID-19: Visitation Guidance

The Arc Mid-Hudson is able to ease restrictions on visits to family homes once again, effective Friday, November 6, 2020, based on guidelines below that adhere to OPWDD and DOH requirements. To ensure we continue to minimize the spread of COVID-19, family members and advocates must adhere to this policy to maintain the health and well-being of individuals and staff. Throughout the pandemic, the Arc Mid-Hudson has instituted precautions designed to ensure the health and safety of the people we support and our employees.

Family home and off-site visits

Individuals may participate in home or family visits only if all of the following circumstances are met:

1. The individual is not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, and is not under any quarantine or isolation requirements.
2. The individual passes a health screen and temperature check immediately prior to leaving the certified residence.
3. The individual washes their hands immediately prior to their departure from and return to the residence.
4. The location(s) of the visit does not include: (a) any household member suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19; (b) any household member who has been exposed to COVID-19 in the prior 14 days; or (c) any household member who has displayed any symptoms of COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days.
5. The location(s) of the visit does not include any micro-cluster hot spot within New York, as identified by the State Department of Health, and/or visits from families coming from these hot spots. Hot spots, as of November 4, 2020, are located in Brooklyn and Queens, and in Rockland, Orange, Bloome, Steuben, and Chemung counties; AND
6. Staff remind families to ensure that individuals are washing and/or sanitizing hands throughout the day, implementing social distancing whenever possible, and wearing face coverings whenever social distancing cannot be maintained in public. Prior to home visits, staff will discuss strategies to best implement these practices and ensure that families have face coverings.

Daily logs of all home visits and other off-site visits from certified residences will be maintained to sufficiently trace and track any potential COVID-19 exposure.

It is important that while individuals are on home visits social distancing principles are followed, frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing are implemented, and community outings to stores, outdoor

restaurants, salons, etc. are extremely limited in frequency and duration. Families will sign an attestation to these guidelines prior to departure from the residence.

Upon return to the residence, families will provide a list of addresses of any and all places the individual spent time during their home visit, including the names of other people with whom they spent time in close contact (within 6 feet) or proximate contact.

Individuals who return from home or off-site visits will receive health screenings and temperature checks immediately upon their return to the residences.

Individuals who stay with their families will need to be tested for COVID before they can return to their residences. A written copy of the negative test result must be shared by the family with the house RN before the individual can return to their residence. When a negative test result is obtained, the individual must return to their residence within 24 hours. These are necessary precautions to maintain the safety of everyone living at the home.

Visits to Certified Residences

All visits must continue to be scheduled ahead of time and approved by the Residential Coordinator. Only pre-scheduled visits can be accommodated to ensure safety and to adhere to OPWDD requirements **and all visits will be held outdoors.**

Visits shall be staggered so as not to have multiple families visiting in a shared space at one time and to ensure adequate time to clean any common areas or high touch surfaces between visits.

Only one resident at a time may entertain visitor(s). Visitors are limited to two people at a time and, to the extent possible, to members of the same family or household. No visitors are permitted under 18 years of age.

When setting up the visit, the potential risks and benefits of the visitor's presence should be thoroughly discussed with the visitor and the resident ahead of the scheduled visit. No visits will be scheduled in any home where there is any suspected or positive cases of COVID-19.

A visitors schedule will be posted and all residents will be notified ahead of time that visitors will be present and provided a review of how to remain socially distant from others.

Prior to each scheduled visit, visitors must undergo symptom and temperature checks by agency staff and shall be denied visitation if they report any COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior 14 days, or have a temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

Visitors must arrive with face masks, which must be properly worn throughout the entirety of the visit. Visitors who refuse to wear face masks will be asked to leave the property.

Visitors must sanitize their hands upon arrival and perform meticulous hand hygiene throughout the visit.

Any areas of the facility utilized by the visitor(s) will be disinfected immediately following the visit.

All homes will maintain a daily log of all visitors, which will include names and contact information, as well as the location on the property that visitation occurred.

8/10/20: MCK/LMR