



*Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives!*

## **EEDA Family Visitation Protocols**

On March 18, 2020, OPWDD issued a Health Advisory: COVID-19 Guidance for Operators of Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRAs), Community Residences (CRs) and Private Schools Regarding Visitation which suspended visitation within our IRAs. On June 17, 2020 NYS lifted the suspension of visits with visits beginning on June 19, 2020 with specific guidelines that must be followed. The opportunity for family members to visit must be done in a manner that continues to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the health and well-being of all individuals living in EEDA's IRAs. After evaluation by OPWDD, in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), and participating certified residential facilities, such as EEDA this guidance may be modified. It is anticipated that this is the first phase of visits and are subject to change as necessary. In order to be eligible for visitation under these guidelines, EEDA must attest to its ability to adhere to the following requirements:

1. Visits can be scheduled seven days a week from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm. 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.
2. In order to allow for fairness in scheduling, family members need to schedule visits at least one day in advance with the EEDA Residential Managers. No unannounced or unscheduled visits will be allowed.
3. The Residential Managers should thoroughly discuss the potential risks and benefits of the visitor's presence when the family is scheduling the visit and with the individual ahead of a scheduled visit. They must also notify visitors, at the time they are scheduling a visit, whether there are any positive or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the home.
4. Visitation must not occur with any individuals who are currently in quarantine due to exposure for COVID-19 or isolation for a positive COVID-19 test.
5. Visits should last no more than one hour.
6. All other individuals living in the IRA should be notified ahead of time that visitors will be present and advised how to remain socially distant from them.
7. Family members are able to bring snacks or a meal to share with their loved one but EEDA asks that they follow the six foot social distancing recommendation while eating.
8. The visits will be limited to two family members at a time per visit, and each visitor must be 18 years or older.
9. Visits are to be limited to designated areas only where separation from other residents can be safely implemented. Family members will be asked not to access other areas of the residence. The preferred designated meeting areas will be outside of the residence on the back deck or lawn. If an outside visit is not feasible (i.e. rain), other

arrangements for a meeting place inside the residence will be determined by the supervisory staff. Recreation rooms and individuals' bedrooms are other options for visits.

10. Staff may be present during the visits, depending on the needs of the individuals.
11. Visitation remains prohibited anywhere except within sight of the residential facility and shall not include sitting in a non-agency vehicle or leaving the premises unmonitored by staff.
12. Upon arrival, each visitor must undergo symptoms and temperature checks by EEDA staff, and shall be denied visitation if they report any COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior fourteen days, or have a temperature higher than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.
13. All family members will be expected to wear masks and must be properly worn throughout the entirety of the visit. If they do not have a mask, EEDA staff will provide one. Visitors who refuse to wear a face mask must be asked to leave the facility.
14. Family members must maintain a six foot social distance from individuals when possible. Individuals will also be encouraged to maintain the six foot social distance and wear a mask.
15. There is no limit to the number of visits that a family may schedule, but EEDA asks that the families be respectful of the other individuals in the IRA and the access for other families for visits.
16. Facilities shall maintain a daily log of all visitors, which shall include names and contact information, as well as the location within the facility/property that visitation occurred.
17. The designated areas will be cleaned and disinfected after the visit is completed.