



Dear Families,

As Memorial Day weekend approaches, we recognize the hardships of not being able to visit your loved ones during this time. We hope you have found little ways to connect with friends and family, whether it's mailing a letter or video chatting.

Many of you have asked when visitors will be allowed in group living environments at Advocates. Unfortunately, visitation to group homes is still restricted by our state funders. They are hearing how difficult this is for you and your loved ones. We will notify you as soon as they believe it safe to lift the restriction. [Read here for a full update](#) that came out today from Commissioner Ryder to DDS individuals and families.

Earlier this week, Governor Baker outlined his plan for moving Massachusetts through the next phases of living with the COVID-19 pandemic. As expected, the plan does not change anything for Advocates as an essential business. Our remarkable direct care staff will continue to support your family members and loved ones the same as they have since March.

We've seen the Advocates community come together in more ways than ever. Dozens of staff from our administrative and leadership teams have led car parades to celebrate the essential work of our direct care staff. [View the photo gallery on Wicked Local Newton.](#)



We have developed a team at Advocates that is meeting regularly to develop policies and practices that will guide us through the next phases of this pandemic. The safety of staff and people we support is our highest priority as we carefully and thoughtfully plan for any changes to our services made in June.

As I noted in my last update, we continue to see more people in the Advocates community recovering from COVID-19. As of today, 27 people we support have recovered and 35 staff have recovered and returned to work. This is great news.

There's also good news on the supply front. An ample stock of masks will sustain Advocates for months ahead to help protect the safety of individuals and staff in our residential homes. We're beginning to see other supplies like hand sanitizer and cleaning products become available through our regular suppliers.

Remember we are all in this together. Your letters and phone calls have meant a lot, and we continue to share them with the appropriate staff. As always, please continue

Family Communication COVID-19 Update 5/22/20

Subject Line: Update for you and your family.

to reach out, and follow [Advocates on Facebook](#) or visit www.Advocates.org to stay updated.

Take care and stay healthy,

Diane Gould

President & CEO

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