



Dear Families,

We are pleased to share good news with you and your family members. As we move into the next phase of living with the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions on visitors in group living environments have been lifted by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

We recognize how difficult it has been to stay connected to your loved ones during this time. Thank you for understanding while Advocates adheres to the DDS visitation policy that follows guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

Beginning on **Wednesday, June 10, 2020** visitors will be allowed in group living environments at Advocates **with the following measures in place**:

- Must be scheduled with staff ahead of time.
- No more than two people can visit at once.
- Must take place outdoors.
- All visitors must be screened prior to visiting with a resident.
 - Visitors are not permitted to visit if they have symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, or new loss of taste or smell.
 - Anyone with a fever (100.0 F or higher) will not be permitted to visit the home.
 - Visitors are not permitted to visit if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days or if they have been ordered by a health care professional or public health official to quarantine due to exposure.
- Face coverings or masks must be worn.
- Social distancing will be observed.

Family Communication COVID-19 Update 6/9/20
Subject Line: Visitor Policy Update

[Read the full guidance from DDS here.](#)

We are all in this together and must continue to adhere to CDC and DPH guidelines to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Enjoy the beautiful weather with your loved ones and thank you for all that you do.

Be well,

Diane Gould
President & CEO

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Our Contact Information

Advocates
1881 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01701
(508) 628-6300
<http://www.Advocates.org>



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