



April / May 2020

Update on COVID Guidelines in Group Residential Homes

DDRC continues to be vigilant in following COVID-19 health and safety protocols. We recently received guidance from the state relating to residential group homes, and we thank you for your cooperation with these protocols. The guidance specifies that:

- Indoor and outdoor visits are allowed.
- Visitors must be 18 years or older.
- Number of visitors per resident, duration of visits and simultaneous visitors at each site should be limited. DDRC will implement this by allowing 1 visitor at a time, with a 45-minute visit.
- Visitors must wear a mask covering their mouth and nose for the duration of their visit, whether inside or out, must sanitize their hands upon entry, pass a symptom screening and provide contact information for contact tracing. Masks with exhalation valves are prohibited.
- If both resident and visitor are fully vaccinated, they may have physical contact, otherwise distancing of 6 ft. is required.
- Group home staff, regardless of vaccinations, must wear a medical "ear loop" mask (not cloth) covering mouth and nose.

We are assessing additional changes to guidelines regarding return to work, quarantine for fully vaccinated staff and service recipients, and a phase-in plan for expansion of day services, and will communicate those in the ensuing weeks.