

October 8, 2020

Dear Families and Friends of the Charles River Center Community,

Now that the weather is becoming cooler, the Charles River Center is implementing Indoor Visitation Procedures for our community residences, effective October 13th. They are based on the Department of Developmental Services statewide guidance. [Indoor Visitation Procedures](#) Please review them carefully. Strict adherence to the procedures is expected by our staff and all visitors to ensure the health and well-being of your loved ones, those with whom they reside, the staff, and indirectly the visitors of the other residents. As always, the safety of everyone concerned is our highest priority as we enter this next phase of re-opening.

It is preferable to limit the number of people entering the homes, therefore outdoor visitation is the safest arrangement, weather permitting. Similarly, if you are accustomed to taking your family member out of the residence for a visit, we ask that you continue that practice, rather than switching to indoor visitations, when possible. Again, this is to limit the number of people entering the home.

Please consider your health and those with whom you live before deciding to visit in the residence. If there are risk factors to be considered, please seek medical advice.

Lastly, as you are aware all residential staff are undergoing surveillance testing for COVID-19 on a regular basis. Baseline testing was conducted of all residential staff in September. Over 200 staff were tested and there were no positive cases! On October 1, 2020, the Massachusetts Emergency Medical Services (EMS) reported that region 4 is considered a high transmission area as there are more than 40 positive cases per 100,000 people in the region. All Charles River residences are in the EMS region 4, which means we are currently in a high transmission period.

Per the EOHHS guidance, we are now required to test all residential staff every two weeks until the rate of positive cases drops below the transmission threshold. We are midway through this second round of testing and again, there are no positive cases reported. This is terrific news!

After reviewing the procedures for indoor visitation, you may find them to be a bit more restrictive than you would like at this time. Please know that they were developed with the utmost consideration for allowing in-person visits to occur while keeping the risk of transmission of the virus to its lowest point. Hopefully, when there is a vaccine in circulation, we can return to pre-COVID operations. But until then, I appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

If you have questions, please contact the residential management team.

Be Safe,

Anne-Marie Bajwa

President and CEO