



February 5, 2021

To The Lifeworks Community,

I am writing to all of you with an update to our Lifeworks Residential Visitation Policy. As you know, our current Holiday policy ends on February 6<sup>th</sup>. We are greatly appreciative of the understanding that all of our families and friends of the people we support have been, as we have sought to try and greatly limit the potential exposure for those we serve.

In early to mid-January, Lifeworks had between 5 and 9 houses in quarantine at any one time. The positivity rate for our counties went from 2.5% on average to upwards of 10%. We asked everyone to support us in having very limited visitation, until at least we have completed the first round of vaccines in our houses and our positivity rates have gone down.

Today, we are pleased to say that things are looking up. As of this week, we have completed the first round of vaccines for the persons we serve and our staff. We are pleased to report that 98% of the people we serve have chosen to get the vaccine and over 76% of our staff has chosen to get the vaccine so far. These rates far exceed the rates of many of our fellow agencies in our region. In addition, today the Governor announced that the state positivity rates are down to 3.3% and as of today we have no homes in quarantine. Please know that even though we are doing well with vaccines, we will be continuing our surveillance testing program every two weeks for our staff and every month for the persons we support.

Therefore, beginning on Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup> through at least Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>. Lifeworks will be increasing visitation opportunities for our residential programs. The policy for this two-week period will be:

- Families are welcome to schedule a visit for your family member at the house, or to have your family member leave the house for a visit to a local restaurant or your family home for the day.
- The visits can be for a maximum of two people and can be one visit per week.
- The visits will happen in a designated area in each home and visits that involve other family members and friends at your home require that

upon return, the families will complete the attestation form listing all individuals that they were in contact with.

- We will continue to restrict overnight visits to homes for the next two weeks. During this time, we will be completing our 2<sup>nd</sup> round of vaccines for many of the people we support.
- We are asking you to schedule these visits 24 hours in advance.
- Visits in the home cannot include food. If you want to get together for a meal, please plan on doing this at a restaurant or at your home.

I appreciate your understanding and support on this issue. As you know we have based all of our decisions during the past 11 months on the health and safety of the people we serve and the guidance of the CDC and DPH.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at [dburke@lifeworksarc.org](mailto:dburke@lifeworksarc.org).

Sincerely,

Daniel Burke