

Advocacy and Resource Center  
COVID 19 Protocols  
2020

Protocol: Visitation in IRA Locations

Effective: 6/19/2020

Rationale: For the purposes of this protocol, visitation is defined as on-site visits only in a designated visitation area, it does not include, car rides in non-agency vehicles, transporting individuals to medical appointments, or meeting individuals at medical appointments to accompany them. As of this time these situations are still not permitted. The following instructions will be followed for all visitation that will occur in Residential IRA locations. This protocol will continue to be updated as future directives are provided from OPWDD related to the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

The following situations would **prohibit** visitation in any IRA location.

- 1.) Any individual residing in the IRA has had a COVID-19 screening for a scheduled hospital procedure and ordered to self-isolate until the date/time of the procedure. For example, Individual is due for a medical procedure on Thursday, said individual has a COVID-19 test completed on Monday and is ordered to isolate until the date of the scheduled procedure. No visitation to the IRA would be allowed from the time of the COVID testing on Monday until the individual leaves for the procedure on Thursday.
- 2.) If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the IRA and Isolation precautions are in place for any individual in the residence.
- 3.) The Agency reserves the right to suspend visitation at any location if there exists a medical condition of one of the occupants where exposure to possible infective agents puts the individual at an increased health risk.

All visitation will be scheduled in advance for a period of time not to exceed 30 minutes of face to face visit time and limited to two visitors per session. Visitation should not be scheduled during anticipated times of high activity such as during a meal time. At the time visitation is scheduled, visitor(s) will be asked screening questions from the Staff Pre-shift Screening Protocol. Scheduling will be contingent upon passing the screening questions. Visitor(s) will be informed that they must bring a face mask to wear during the entire visit. Visitor(s) will also be informed of the requirements of this protocol at the time visitation is scheduled. The following will apply to all visits.

- 1.) Visitors will be screened upon arrival following the staff screening protocol, this will include a temperature and all screening questions. Temperature will be recorded on the Visitor Screening Record. Visitor will be required to sign the attestation statement on the Screening Record.
- 2.) Visitors will be provided with hand sanitizer during the screening and be asked to disinfect hands before visit begins.
- 3.) Visitation will be arranged to occur outdoors, or in an enclosed porch on the IRA property. Location should afford six feet of spacing between individual and visitor.
- 4.) Face masks must be worn by all visitors during the entire visit. Individuals should wear a face mask if they are able.

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- 5.) Only visitor and the individual they are visiting will be allowed in the visitation area.
- 6.) Staff will monitor visit, staying in an adequate proximity based on the individuals needs to ensure adequate spacing to ensure visit protocol instructions are followed.
- 7.) A minimum of six foot spacing should be maintained during the entire visit, if individual approaches visitor staff should intervene to remind individual of appropriate distance.
- 8.) No physical contact initiated by either party should occur during the visit.
- 9.) Visitor(s) should not provide any items directly to the individual, if items are brought staff should handle the items and provide to the individual after the conclusion of the visit.
- 10.) At the conclusion of the visit, after visitor departure, all areas where visitation occurred will be appropriately disinfected. Attention should be paid to any sitting surfaces or touch surfaces that visitor(s) had contact with including entrance door handles, chair arms/back (if non-porous), table tops etc..
- 11.) At the conclusion of the visit, the individual will be prompted and monitored to wash their hands before interacting with others in the residence.

If at any time during the visit the individual or visitor(s) are not able to follow the above requirements for visitation this visit will need to be ended. Staff will document the reason the visit had to be ended and Program Administration will follow-up as appropriate prior to future visitation.