June 19, 2020

Dear Families...

As we move through the months of the pandemic, we continue to update the guidelines that govern the safety and wellness of the individuals we serve and the NJID staff.

As of this week, New Jersey has entered into Stage 2 of the “Road to Recovery” and some restrictions are being eased.

NJID is now pleased to announce that we can extend an invitation to families for limited visits to the residents. The following common-sense guidelines are now in place for NJID Residential Programs:

- No resident, current staff of the home or person(s) planning to visit have tested positive or been symptomatic for Covid-19 within the last 14 days of the visit.

- No resident, current staff of the home or person(s) planning to visit have knowingly been in close contact (within six feet for 10 minute) within the last 14 days with someone who recently tested positive for Covid-19.

- Visits will take place outside of the group home in a specially prepared designated sitting area. You can be assured that NJID Residential Services continues to follow CDC guidance and maintains the homes with diligent and thorough cleaning. NJID staff will disinfect the outside sitting area before and after each use. Please consider the weather (especially heat and humidity) when making your arrangements.

- All visits must be made by appointment only. Please call the group home main number to reserve a date and time. We also ask for your understanding if a particular time slot is unavailable and we request that if you cannot make the appointment, please let the group home staff know of the change of plans.

- There is a limit of two outside visitors at one time. All visitors are required to wear a mask/facial covering at all times while at the home; this applies to everyone, including children. The group home has a limited number of masks that can be provided if necessary but it is requested that visitors use their own masks.

- Social distancing rules (6 feet apart) must be observed at all times. We understand that hugs are a natural greeting but this is discouraged to ensure everyone’s safety.

Dominic M. Ursino
President

Robert J. Ferrara
Executive Director

10A Oak Drive - Roosevelt Park - Edison, NJ 08837
(732) 549-6187 - www.NJID.org
Hand sanitizer will be available and we encourage you to frequently use it while on the premises.

Be advised that family visits, outside of the group home or vacations are still strongly discouraged. If an individual chooses to leave their NJID group home, they will not be permitted to return until they have negative test results for COVID-19.

NJID continues to encourage families, friends and loved ones to remain in contact with each other. Phone calls, FaceTime, Skype calls are all being successfully used. NJID can accommodate a variety of video conferencing platforms and families should take advantage of these tools.

NJID continues to strictly monitor all staff with health screening and temperature checks before the start of every shift. There are no exceptions to this policy. NJID staff are required to wear face shields or facial coverings while working in Residential Services.

Although, NJID Day programs are still closed Day program staff are working side by side with their Residential colleagues to provide engaging experiences for all individuals. With this additional assistance, individuals have enjoyed neighborhood walks and visits to local parks and beaches, always while ensuring all safety protocols such as social distancing, hand sanitizing and facial coverings are observed.

We all understand the frustrations and concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. NJID’s early preparation and aggressive measures to control the virus have paid off and I am pleased to let you know that as of today, no individual served by NJID residential services has contracted the virus. Your cooperation has helped to make this possible and we are grateful for your help.

I also want to again, commend the real “Heroes” – the dedicated and compassionate staff of NJID Residential and Day programs. Their commitment to serving your loved one is truly remarkable and unwavering.

I thank you for your patience, support and understanding during this time that is affecting everyone in different ways. I also want to wish the Dads of our NJID individuals a Happy and Healthy Father’s Day.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at Robert.Link@NJID.org or call me at (732) 549-6187 x4001.

Very truly yours,

Robert J. Link

Robert J. Link
Director of Residential Services