



Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration

Communication #20-10

Resident Freedom of Movement and Visits with the lifting of the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order 2020-21

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Resident Freedom of Movement and Visits with the Lifting of the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order 2020-21

- This guidance replaces the memo “Resident Freedom of Movement and Visits In Response to the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order 2020-21” dated 3/20/20

This updated guidance is being issued in response to the Governor’s Office lifting Executive Order 2020-21 (COVID-19). This guidance is directed to Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), Community Health Service Programs (CMHSPs), provider agencies, direct care workers that provide home and community behavioral health care and supports, and residential care facilities that serve individuals with serious mental illness and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- a. This guidance addresses freedom of movement in licensed adult foster care and specialized residential including Substance Use Disorder (SUD) residential settings. For purposes of this guidance, these facilities will referred to as “care facilities.”

Freedom of Movement

The behavioral health needs of individuals residing in a care facility must be provided with a person-centered approach that includes the ability for individuals to engage in activities in the community as currently permitted in the COVID-19 context. In order to continue to mitigate the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, it is still recommended that residents be encouraged to consistently remain at least six feet from people from outside the individual's household and wear face covering when with other individuals consistent with current public health recommendations. Individuals living in a care facility should not be prohibited from exiting their home where they would otherwise have freedom of movement to go out into the community. Individuals should also continue to have access to home and community-based services, based on the Individual Plan of Service and those services necessary to maintain behavioral or psychiatric stability.

Individuals living in care facilities and their direct care workers should be monitored for symptoms of COVID-19. The local health department should be contacted if any individual or direct care worker has symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The care facility staff should seek more immediate medical attention depending on the severity of the symptoms. Otherwise, it is important that individuals who are symptomatic with signs of COVID-19 stay home to prevent the spread the virus, and that all individuals served continue practice frequent hand washing, and distance themselves to the extent possible from others, in accordance with CDC guidelines. More information is available about this at the michigan.gov/coronavirus website.

Providers and direct care workers should help individuals understand the risks of becoming exposed to or spreading the COVID- 19 virus. Individuals are considered high-risk if there are any underlying health conditions such as chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, severe obesity, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised including cancer treatment, diabetes, renal failure, liver disease, etc. These various factors should be considered in decisions regarding whether they might want to limit their exposure and reduce their own movement outside of the facility (e.g., request that others get groceries for them or walk in the yard, rather than in the park).

It is also up to direct care workers, clinical support staff and residential providers to help them with their decisions and work with their guardians to ensure unnecessary limitations on the resident's freedom of movement are mitigated, even in these extreme circumstances.

Visits

All residential providers must allow visitation in accordance with the attached Epidemiology order issued by Director Gordon on June 30, 2020.

In addition, any allowance of visitation should be examined based on current Executive Orders and other directives of DHHS. PIHP/CMH leaders are advised to monitor guidance on visitation promulgated by DHHS, including any screening of visitors as visitation restrictions are shifted with various phases of opening as articulated by the Governor related to the Pandemic. Even as visits open, to maximize safe practice of these visits and consideration of all residents there should still be consideration for video visits where possible to facilitate personal contact and also help with reducing spread of the virus.

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