

March 24, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As you know, Grafton adopted the CMS (Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services) guidelines for “nursing homes” in response to the threat of COVID-19. These guidelines were released in a memo on March 9, entitled “Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in nursing homes (revised).” This step was taken in our adult and children’s residential services last week, due to the fact that our settings are by their nature “congregate care”, and some of our clients have medical concerns that put them at greater risk in the event of infection.

Given yesterday’s announcements by the Governors of Virginia and West Virginia, and the steady increase in the spread of COVID-19 in the communities we serve, we have no choice but to extend our limitation of visits for the foreseeable future.

To reiterate: **this means that no visits will be allowed, “...except for certain situations, such as when a visitor is essential for the resident’s emotional well-being.” Routine visitation and outside activities involving contact with groups in the community will be suspended until we have passed the most acute phase in the pandemic. Therapeutic passes and face-to-face family therapy on site will also continue to be suspended.** These appointments and visits will continue to be facilitated through teleconference, such as Zoom, or Facetime.

If a non-routine visit is requested, the Executive Director in the region where your loved-one resides must approve that visit. Any visitor will be screened as described below, and will be asked to visit with their loved one in an area of the home or facility separated from other residents. We will ask that you observe hand washing or hand sanitizer protocols and limit physical contact. If an individual answers any of these questions positively they will not be allowed to enter a group home or residential treatment center environment.

1. Signs or symptoms of a respiratory illness, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or sore throat, including temperature >99.1
2. In the last 14 days, if the person has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, is under investigation for COVID-19, or is ill with respiratory illness
3. International travel or cruise ship travel within the last 14 days

Our staff are monitoring their own condition against the criterion listed above to ensure a safe environment. We are actively screening all employees against these guidelines if they present with any illness whatsoever.



Please address any concerns or questions to **Tony Sanders, Executive Director of Richmond, or Allyson Davis, Executive Director of Winchester, or Chezia Calloway, Executive Director of Berryville (Residential Treatment Center) or to me at communications@grafton.org**. I am certain that with a concerted effort on all of our parts to slow the spread of this virus we will return to normal procedures soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Stewart', is written over a faint, light-colored circular watermark or background graphic.

Jamie Stewart, CEO