



November 18, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As I'm sure you are aware, there is an increase in the community spread of Covid-19 throughout the country and the regions we serve. This news is especially heartbreaking given that the holidays are upcoming.

We have made the extremely difficult decision to suspend in-person visitation and all off-grounds visits and activities effective immediately. This choice, in response to a problem for which there are no "good" choices, is the only option that lessens the potential of spread within our programs and services. Our staff's steadfast compliance with self-monitoring and mask-wearing has made the difference thus far, but with the increase in spread we must minimize touchpoints between our programs and their surrounding communities as much as possible.

We have a dual duty: we are obligated to protect your loved one, and we are obligated to protect our staff. In situations as extreme as this, safety is the factor that is over all others. Beyond the obvious risk to any individual who contracts Covid, if we were to experience large-scale staffing interruptions due to contagion within our programs, safety could be compromised. We cannot allow that to happen.

Routine visitation (both on and off-grounds), and outside activities involving contact with groups in the community will be suspended until we have passed this 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.

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', written in a cursive style.

Jamie Stewart, CEO