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Executive Deputy Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Residential Treatment Facilities

FROM: Donna Bradbury, Associate Commissioner

DATE: March 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Visitation Guidance

To promote mitigation of virus spread and social distancing, **Residential Treatment Facilities should limit visitors to children and adolescents to only those who are essential to the care and well-being of the patient.** Visitor requests should be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis with the following considerations:

- Any visitors meeting these criteria must be screened for symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, or fever) or potential exposure to someone with COVID-19 and the duration and number of visits should be minimized.
- Once screened, visitors to children and adolescent should be limited to no more than two at a time.
- Prior to the meeting, infection control and mitigation precautions should be reviewed with all visitors including sharing guidance regarding hand washing, social distancing and hygiene with visitors and the patient.
- Visiting spaces should be large enough to allow for social distancing.
- Visiting spaces should be cleaned and disinfected in between visits.

To ensure that children and adolescents maintain communication with their family in the community, each Residential Treatment Facility must ensure that patients have easily available means to stay in contact with family and others. This includes ready access to phones, either through cellular or land lines. Additionally, patients who are deemed appropriate for the use of internet social media accounts should have the means to access them as needed. Every RTF must identify multiple ways for patients to communicate.

CC:

- OMH Exec Team
- Matthew Perkins, MD
- Erin Williams
- Maxine Smalling, RN
- Daniel Silverman, MD
- Field Office Directors