

**From:** Tom McAlvanah  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020

Good afternoon,  
Here is the OPWDD COVID-19 Update for today...

**Visitation Guidance:** As you can imagine, it's been a little challenging as the Governor lifted the sanctions on visits to 'group homes,' resulting in OPWDD trying to catch up and provide guidance as the effective date is tomorrow. The guidance document was issued earlier this afternoon, and I will speak less to the elements, but list some of the questions and concerns that were expressed on the call.

- \* any direction on touching, the desire of individuals and families who are accustomed to hugging when they see each other? Willow Baer explained that they would leave that up to individual situations and common sense.
- \* if someone refuses to wear a mask when they arrive, they may be denied entry.
- \* will the Guidance change as various regions move along in the reopening phases? Yes this is not final and may be adjusted over time.
- \* the questions and observations that followed spoke to the frustration of families who have seen staff come and go from the residences, but families and others have been denied; others spoke to the ill effects of isolation and 'lock down' effects that many have felt.
- \* the burden that DSPs will now feel as some people may look to push the limits of the rules about infection control and visits limited to being within the sight lines of the residence was raised.
- \* the issue of rights for those who are used to walking in their communities and have been unfairly limited with no resolution still.
- \* and then the mandate of the Attestation form; OPWDD is looking to manage this 'allowance' from the Governor's lock down orders which are still in place. I'll leave it to you to speculate why.

**COVID-19 Data update:** presented by Tamika Black

Week of 6/17/20—Individuals tested positive 3,041, an increase of 82 from the previous week; of those, 2,464 in Certified residences, an increase of 68; 432 individuals who tested positive have passed away, an increase of 5 people from the previous week.

The trends have remained consistent, with most cases still in the downstate region; 90% of the cases in congregate care settings. Other trends continue in terms of comorbidities, age and gender.

For staff who tested positive, as of 6/17, there were 3,436, an increase of 88 over the previous week; there were 2,957 who worked in certified facilities, and increase of 91 people over the previous week.

Finally, downward trends in new cases and hospitalizations continue.

That is good news, and we'll leave it there.