

Visitation to Liberty ARC Homes

Liberty ARC will begin to allow visitors at our homes, effective Wednesday June 24, 2020, based on the guidelines below. To ensure we continue to minimize the spread of COVID-19, family members and advocates must adhere to this policy in order to visit their loved one. At this time, individuals are still unable to leave our homes with their family member(s).

Throughout the COVID pandemic Liberty ARC has instituted precautions that were designed to ensure the health and safety of the people we support and our employees.

Liberty will utilize a risk based phased-in approach to visitations in our homes as follows. We believe our approach will ensure the continued health and safety of all of the people we support:

Phase 1 – will contain homes in which all residents are under the age of 60 years old, have no medical conditions that place them at a greater risk of contracting or experiencing complications from COVID-19 and are able to understand and comply with social distancing.

Phase 2 – will contain homes in which all residents are able to understand and comply with social distancing with staff supports and they do not have any medical conditions that place them at a greater risk of contracting or experiencing complications from COVID-19.

Phase 3 – will contain homes in which one resident has a medical condition that places him or her at greater risk of contracting or experiences complications from COVID-19.

Phase 4 –The following homes which are consider to be “medically frail homes” in which the majority of residents have a medical condition that places him or her at greater risk of contracting or experiencing complications from COVID-19

Phase 1 will begin on June 24, 2020. Phase 2 will begin on July 1, 2020 subject to adjustment based upon weekly monitoring of COVID exposure within Liberty ARC, The ARC New York Statewide and Montgomery County. Phase 3 will begin on July 8, 2020 subject to adjustment based upon weekly monitoring of COVID exposure within Liberty ARC, The Arc New York Statewide and Montgomery County. Visitation to our medically frail homes will be considered on July 15th subject to monitoring of COVID exposure within Liberty ARC, The Arc New York Statewide and Montgomery County or at which time the Governor begins to allow visitation to nursing homes.

This policy will be subject to adjustment dependent upon the requirements imposed by OPWDD:

- All visitors need to call the Residential Manager at least 24 hours in advance to schedule a day/time to visit. This is to ensure that multiple visitors are not scheduled on the same day/time.

- A maximum of two visitors, preferably from the same family or household, may visit at a time. Visitors must be 18 years of age or older.
- Visitors will be limited to one hourly visit per week to ensure all families have an opportunity to visit each week.
- Ideally, visits will be planned for nice weather. People can sit on porches, decks or in yards and visit with their family members or advocate, while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing of six (6) feet or greater.
- When a visitor arrives, they must ring the doorbell. The Assistant Manager or charge staff will take the visitors' temperature and ask the assigned COVID-19 screening questions of any visitors. The screening of visitors will be documented on the screening tool used to document the same information for staff.
- If a visitor has a fever or answers "yes" to any of the screening questions they will not be allowed to visit until the visitor is symptom free for 72 hours.
- If a family member or advocate has a pre-existing condition that results in a COVID symptom he/she is encouraged to visit their medical provider to obtain a note to such effect prior to scheduling a visit. Such documents may be sent to Elizabeth Bridge, Corporate Compliance Director at 47 Liberty Drive Amsterdam, NY 12010 to be maintained on file.
- Once the visitor has passed the screening process, they will need to wait outside as staff will get their loved one. Every visit will occur outside.
- All visitors must wear face masks, provided by Liberty ARC, fully covering their nose and mouth during their entire visit to the site.
- If a visitor refuses to wear a face mask they must be asked to leave.
- Social distancing of six (6) feet will be observed throughout the visit.
- Visitors will be asked to apply hand sanitizer prior to visiting with their loved one.
- No food or drinks should be consumed during the visit as these activities require the removal of the face mask.
- Once visits are over, individuals need to sanitize their hands prior to going back inside the house. Staff will be required to sanitize the meeting area after every visit.