

Adelphoi Village-Residential Services

November 18, 2020

COVID-19 Communication

As previously expressed in past communication, maintaining the safety of our clients, families and staff continues to be the top priority of Adelphoi during the COVID-19 pandemic. Adelphoi continues to follow all guidance provided by both the CDC as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Recognizing the importance of the work and activities that our programs provide, while ensuring safe operational practices requires consistency and planning. Over the course of this crisis, several “standards” were announced by the governor’s office including prioritizing the attention given to vulnerable populations such as those in congregate care. Specifically, caution is being deliberately used in regards to loosening restrictions for these populations during the current state of emergency. Over the course of past month, we have experienced an increase in the number of youth and staff that have either contracted the virus, had a direct exposure to a confirmed case, or have required some period of quarantine due to a Covid-19 related exposure. As you are aware, our Commonwealth is experiencing a significant spike in cases. This increase is not solely impacting densely populated communities, but all communities.

The following safety protocols and policies are currently being implemented in an attempt to minimize risk to the youth currently placed in one of our twenty-two residential programs.

- Direct referrals will continue to be accepted for admissions with a modified onboarding process within each unit. This process includes social distancing from other youth, mandatory face coverings, and PCR testing for Covid-19. These admissions also include emergency shelter referrals.
- Adelphoi staff and youth will attend and participate in designated court proceedings in person if requested by the referring agency or Court. However, Adelphoi is respectfully requesting that every attempt to use technology and video conferencing be made to minimize potential exposure in the community.
- Youth who are attending an education program through Adelphoi are doing so in person, five days per week. There will be potential disruptions and shifts towards remote learning as needed. Each program is separated into individual classrooms and do not interact with other units in an attempt to minimize transmission between programs.
- Additional outside services will continue through telehealth rather than in person.
- Family visitation is temporarily suspended through January 1, 2021. Increased virtual visits and phone calls will be made available to each youth and family.
- County workers, attorneys, or other professional face-to-face visits are temporarily suspended through January 1, 2021. Virtual visits and virtual walk-throughs will be made available in order to maintain contact with clients.
- Youth currently in the Specialized Independent Living programs are permitted to work at approved job sites while practicing strict Covid-19 protocols. Any post-secondary school or training will occur through remote learning only.

- Traditional day passes and home passes continue to be on hold. On a case by case basis, a modified home pass can be discussed should there be scenario that compels such a request.

All other safeguards and practices that were implemented since March of 2020 will remain in place and be evaluated on a regular basis. These practices include strict cleaning and disinfecting of each residential unit, educating all staff and youth on COVID-19 including up to date information on transmission and prevention, daily monitoring for symptoms of all staff and youth, and limiting any unnecessary contact with staff or youth from other units.

Should you have any concerns with the points listed above, please contact one of the administrators listed below.

Mark Mortimer, Chief Operating Officer (724) 804-7011

Jon McLister, Vice President of Residential Services (724) 804-7007