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TO: County Administrators

FROM: Mark Mortimer, Chief Operating Officer  
Jon McLister, Vice President of Residential Services  
Theresa Matson, Vice President Community Based Services

RE: COVID-19 Update

DATE: February 24, 2021

As previously expressed in past communications, 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.

In November of 2020, due to significant increases with positive cases in our community we unfortunately had to revert back to increased visitation restrictions within our residential programs. Within the past month, these numbers have started to improve and we are optimistic that this trend may continue through the spring.

Beginning March 1, 2021, county workers will be permitted to resume face-to-face contact with youth at designated locations. In addition, approved family visits (with restrictions) will be permitted as well. Due to the number of programs with Adelphoi Village's residential continuum as well as their geographic location, questions regard the details for visitation restrictions should be directed to a member of the leadership team or specific unit.

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.

- Family visitation is permitted (effective March 1, 2021) with restrictions. Only parent(s) or legal guardians are permitted to visit face to face at this time. All visits will be held at designated locations which may be outside of the individual units.
- County visitors and attorneys of record are permitted to visit with youth face to face (effective March 1, 2021). We respectfully request that county visitors schedule visits/appointments to help ensure proper social distancing at approved locations.
- 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

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- 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 either through telehealth or in person depending on the provider.
- Youth currently in the Supervised 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 through May 1, 2021. 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 have been implemented over the course of the past year 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.

Our Foster Care, Adoption, and Community Based programs have also experienced fluctuations in how services have been provided over the past year. We have adapted our protocols to successfully meet the needs of our youth and families by creating standards and practices around safety.

The following safety protocols and policies are currently being implemented with our Foster Care, Adoption, and Community Based Services programs:

- Therapists and caseworkers providing Community Based, Foster Care, and Adoption Services are now providing face to face sessions and visits with our families, unless there is an identified case of COVID-19 or a significant safety concern.
- Telehealth is still being provided in instances where face to face sessions are not possible for all of our services.
- Therapists and Caseworkers are screening families prior to each visit/session for symptoms of COVID-19. Personal protective equipment in the form of masks, wipes, and hand sanitizer are provided to staff, clients, and families.
- All youth and families continue to be screened for COVID-19 at admissions. If a youth or family member is symptomatic or tests positive for COVID-19, CDC guidelines are followed and services may start via telehealth or as soon as it is safe to enter the home.
- Our youth in Foster Care are able to participate in regular home passes and supervised visits as long as clients and families involved in those visits pass a basic health and safety screen related to COVID-19.

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

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