

Hello,

As we receive guidance and updates from Governor Hogan, Governmental Agencies, and other resources, we are continuing to update our policy and procedures in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Per the guidance issued today by Bernie Simons, Deputy Director of DDA, CSS is requesting visits to CSS residences, as well as visits to family homes by individuals supported by CSS in residential services, be suspended beginning today, 4/1/2020. If a family member can maintain six feet of distance from an individual and wishes to meet them outside for a walk or brief outing, this limited in-person visitation should be reasonably safe. Family members who have regular routines with a person should consider whether a distance visit would be more confusing to the person and should stop in person completely. We hope this increased safety visitation policy will not be necessary for more than a few weeks. We will inform you of any updates from the DDA.

Additionally, it is highly recommended to continue visits with individuals using virtual methods via phone, video chats, or other conferencing applications.

Also, I want to inform you that a CSS employee has tested positive for COVID-19. Neither of the individuals with whom the staff had contact show any symptoms and are being tested.

It is important to point out that the employee followed our procedures and guidelines upon learning he came in contact with someone in his personal life who had tested positive for the virus.

1. The staff immediately informed his supervisor of being exposed to someone with the virus.
2. He didn't come into work at any CSS office or home and requested time off.
3. The staff contacted his doctor and asked to be tested.
4. Once the test results came back, the employee informed his supervisor of the results.
5. He isolated himself appropriately and will continue to do so until the staff is no longer ill or contagious.

It is also important to point out that staff and co-workers were taking precautions throughout the times they worked by practicing social distancing of at least six feet, washing their hands frequently and using hand sanitizer, cleaning surfaces with a disinfectant often, wearing masks and gloves when appropriate, and to leave work early if they begin to feel sick, among other safety precautions provided by the CDC.

Fortunately, as of now, no other employees are showing any other signs or symptoms and we continue to monitor the situation closely. We have every reason to hope that he is an isolated case because he and his coworkers were routinely and regularly practicing universal precautions.