



*"Committed to Care"*

**To:** All Staff; Families

**From:** Program Directors

**Re:** Compassionate Care

**Date:** 11/4/2020

The Office of Developmental Programs, in its latest announcement, included a provision under which individuals may be permitted to have visitors within the group home. Compassionate Care visitation will be allowed when there is a 5% or greater Level of Community Transmission in a county because of the connection between mental, emotional, and physical health.

Compassionate Care by a caregiver may be considered if there is a documented "significant change" in an individual's condition, an end-of-life situation, support is needed as a result of the loss of a loved one, or emotional support is needed for an individual who has just moved to a residential setting and is adjusting to the individual's new surroundings. A "significant change" includes: a decline in the individual's status that cannot be resolved without intervention by staff or by implementing standard disease-related clinical interventions that has an impact on more than one area of the individual's health status, and requires interdisciplinary review or revision of the care plan, or both. Any other circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis.

LCARC will adhere to the following stipulations regarding Compassionate Care and Caregivers:

- Caregivers must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test that was administered within the past 7 days or if testing turn-around times allow, the past 72 hours, before providing Compassionate Care. Caregivers are responsible for arranging for and covering the cost of testing. The Caregiver is subject to all ongoing testing guidelines that apply to residential staff pursuant to all guidance, as well as Orders issued by the Secretary of Health.
- LCARC staff will screen all Caregivers for COVID-19 before the Caregiver enters the home using ARC form 20/562.
- If possible, the Caregiver should maintain social distance from the individual receiving Compassionate Care. If maintaining distance from the individual would not achieve the intended outcomes of the Caregiver's visit, social distancing is not required.
- Caregivers should not visit for more than 2 hours per day and there should not be more than 2 Caregivers per individual present at a time.

- Caregivers must wear a mask while in the home, frequently wash their hands or use hand sanitizer, and maintain social distance from staff and other residents. If a Caregiver does not comply with one or more of these public health practices, the Caregiver will be asked to leave the home and LCARC will reassess their Caregiver status to protect staff and other residents.

- Caregivers may only visit the individual in their room, apart from staff and other individuals.

- Staff will intermittently check that the Caregiver continues to wear a mask, frequently uses hand sanitizer, or washes his or her hands and continues to distance him or herself from other residents.