

August 14, 2020

Residential Visitation Plan Update

Dear Green Chimneys Families,

As promised, here is some updated information regarding Green Chimneys transportation for visits, screening prior to visit returns, and on grounds visitation. As you know, beginning in September, we will be returning to an every weekend home visit policy and are encouraging families to take their child home as often as possible. Since we will no longer be COVID testing upon return (starting in September), it will be imperative that families track their own risk factors and keep us informed of any changes. Prior to home weekend returns, we will be sending out an automated message via School Messenger, which will review COVID-19 risk factor questions and will ask that you contact our Health Center in the event you answer “yes” to any of the questions. We will continue to take your child’s temperature prior to them getting on our busses and/or upon return to Health Center, so we will need families to wait until your child is cleared to return before leaving the pick-up location or campus. See reopening plan for details on what happens should your child have a risk factor: <https://www.greenchimneys.org/therapeutic-special-education/parents-families/announcements/school-reopening-plan/>

Unfortunately, for those who have been reliant on Green Chimneys transportation, we will only be able to provide bussing for your child every other weekend. Because children from different dorms ride the busses together, we will need to social distance and this means fewer children in each vehicle at a time. We have grouped the campus into two groups (Group 1 & 2), and have made a schedule with alternating weekends for each group. These groups are put together according to where you live and to which stop your child goes. We will be unable to switch kids from one group to the other. Should you wish to have your child home on a different weekend or more than every other week, you absolutely can, you will just need to provide your own transportation. Bus drivers will be wearing face coverings, and all children travelling on our transportation will need to wear them as well, for the duration of the trip. Staff will direct children to designated seat as they get on vehicle in order to ensure social distancing.

The updated September-December calendar is attached here, which includes information about days off from school (3-day weekends, holiday breaks), as well as when we will provide transportation to which group. If you are utilizing Green Chimneys transportation, you will see each weekend designated as either Group 1, Group 2, or ALL. For the Thanksgiving and December holiday visits, we will be providing extra bussing in order to get everyone home. On the last page of calendar, you will find to which group your child is assigned. All home visits will continue to be planned with your child’s therapist.

Visit Days are also scheduled on the attached calendar. We will have visit days almost every Wednesday evening and two different blocks of time on Sundays. Designated visiting hours will make it easier for us to track & screen visitors on campus. If you choose to take your child off-grounds, rather than staying on campus, you are able to do so, just be sure to inform us ahead of time. So long as the weather allows, we will continue to provide tented space for your visits to be outside. Since we have limited indoor space, we will only be able to accommodate indoor visiting space under special circumstances. Otherwise, as the weather turns colder, you will need to take your child off-grounds for these visits. As is our usual policy, we ask that you plan visits at least 48 hours in advance, and will return to the practice of visits being scheduled with your child’s Social Worker/therapist. You may discuss any special requests or needed exceptions with her/him.

As you know, with things changing on a daily basis, our plans will need to be fluid and are subject to change. We continue to stay in touch regularly with the Putnam County Department of Health, as well as the NY State Education Department and the Office of Children & Family Services in order to stay

updated on changing policies, mandates, and practice recommendations. We will keep you informed of any changes. Thank you for your continued cooperation as we prepare for the start of the new academic year. We hope you and your family remain healthy and well. As always, let us know if you have any questions or feedback.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin B. Licardi, LCSW". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Kristin B. Licardi, LCSW

Director of Social Services

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