Ohio | Department of Health

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt.Governor

Lance D. Himes, Interim Director

DIRECTOR'S ORDER

Re: Director's Order to Limit Access to Ohio's Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) and to Permit Visitation.

I, Lance D. Himes, Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to the authority granted to me in R.C. 3701.13, to prevent the spread of contagious or infectious diseases, hereby ORDER the following for Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disorders (ICF/IID) licensed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities:

1. This Order shall replace all prior Orders regarding Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disorders (ICF/IIDs). ICF/IIDs must continue to restrict access only to those personnel who are necessary to the operation of the ICF/IID, except as permitted in limited circumstances set forth below. Personnel who are necessary for the operations of the ICF/IIDs include, but may not be limited to, staff, contractors providing personal cares services to residents, contracted and emergency healthcare providers, contractors conducting critical on-site maintenance, and governmental representatives and regulators and their contractors. No visitors of residents shall be admitted to any ICF/IID, except for end of life situations and for limited visitation as explained below.

2. **Screening required for all visitors.** All individuals, personnel and visitors must be screened for COVID-19 each time they enter the facility. Screening guidance is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as from ODH. Screening should include question about exposure to COVID-19 and assessing the visitors and personnel for cough, shortness of breath, and body temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher. This Order does not apply to exigent circumstances, to emergency medical services, first responders and similarly situated individuals.

3. **Points of Entry must be limited.** The ICF/IID should attempt to have as few of points of entry as possible. ODH recommends that ICF/IIDs, where possible, have a designated entry point. This does not apply to emergency ingress or egress of the facilities.

4. **All visitors must show identification and be added to the visitor log.** Individuals granted access to an ICF/IID must produce legal federal or state identification or other satisfactory forms of identification, or be a person known to the ICF/IID. The individuals should provide the ICF/IID with business telephone number and address. It is the responsibility of the ICF/IID to log each visitor including telephone number and address. The log shall be maintained for at least six months and the log must be made available to The Ohio Department of Health or The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, upon request.

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The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of ADA Services.

5. **Resident discharge.** Residents must be allowed to discharge from ICF/IIDs at any time and in accordance with applicable state and federal law, understanding that residents that then return to the ICF/IIDs while this Order is in effect are subject to the directives above.

6. **End of Life Visitation.** Visitors shall be admitted for end of life situations. For purposes of this Order, end of life situations are defined as a substantial change of condition indicating end of life is approaching. Providers shall notify family several days and up to one week in advance and shall not wait until active dying. Some indications of end of life include the following: loss of appetite (no eating or drinking), increased sleeping, delirium, unexplained agitation, mottling of skin, significant decline in cognition, or an increase in depression accompanying other indications.

7. **Visitation- Indoor or Outdoor.** ICF/IIDs may permit residents to have visitors in accordance with the guidelines and exceptions set forth below. If the weather and the resident's health permits, ICF/IIDs are encouraged to first consider scheduling an outdoor visit.

    a. ICF/IIDs shall do the following as they prepare for and assess their readiness to schedule and arrange visits:

        i. Carefully consider all implications for resident physical and mental well-being when determining how to allow facility and personal visitation decisions.

        ii. Review the Public Health Advisory System color-coded system to assess the degree of the virus' spread in the county where the facility is located.

        iii. Residents should be reminded about the risks of the spread of COVID-19 and the appropriate safety measures to take to protect themselves and their visitors.

        iv. Ensure the facility has or will have adequate staff on site to screen visitors as required by this Order.

        v. Ensure the facility has hand sanitizer, which shall be made available to visitors and residents for use before, after, and during the visit.

        vi. Ensure the facility has sufficient supply of masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to provide for the resident, the visitor and the on-going needs of the facility personnel.

    b. Once an ICF/IID has completed the requirements in paragraph (a), the ICF can schedule the visit as long as the following conditions are met:

        i. Visits must be scheduled in advance by the ICF/IID. All visitors should be an age of such maturity as to facilitate social distancing of six feet and so as not to be a

distraction to other residents, visitors, or staff. Visitors will be provided a time for the visit as well as the length of the visit.

ii. The facility does not have residents in the distinct residential living area of the resident receiving the visit who are either in isolation or quarantine status due to a positive COVID-19 test or exposure or suspected exposure to COVID 19 in the past 14 days.

iii. There are no personnel who have worked in the distinct residential living area of the resident receiving the visit within the last 14 days who have been diagnosed with COVID or been assigned quarantine status by the Local Health Department (LHD) within the past 14 days.

iv. The visitor(s) confirms all of the following to the ICF/IID:
    1. No household members are currently in quarantine or isolation status due to COVID-19; and
    2. No COVID-19 symptoms currently or in the past 14 days;
    3. No known exposure to anyone infected with COVID-19 in the past 14 days; and
    4. Within the past 14 days, the visitor has not traveled to any of the states on ODH's travel advisory list found at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

v. The facility shall encourage residents and visitors to have a contact-free visit. If contact does occur, the resident shall use hand sanitizer or wash hands thoroughly as soon as possible and, if possible, change clothes after the visit. Items such as wheelchairs or other touched items shall be cleaned and disinfected.

vi. If the visit is indoors, the location of the visit must be established in advance of the visit, based on the following:

    1. If the facility has the capacity, the facility should arrange for indoor visits in a room or building that is dedicated solely to indoor visits and is not currently utilized for any other resident activities. This dedicated space either has a private entrance or is otherwise accessible without walking through resident living areas. During and after each visit, the facility will follow all universal precautions regarding cleaning, social distancing and ventilation.
    2. If the facility does not have the capacity to dedicate a space solely for indoor visits, the facility can still arrange for indoor visitation in appropriate areas as designated by the facility. These areas at a minimum should:
        i. Be free of other residents; and

ii. Be sterilized and cleaned after each visit and before other residents enter the space; and
iii. All visitors participating in the visit must wear a facial covering, unless a medical exception is documented. Use of additional personal protective equipment may be required by the ICF/IID.

8. Duration. This Order shall be effective September 28, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. and remain in full force and effect until the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order at a sooner time and date.

Accordingly, I hereby **ORDER** that this Order shall replace all prior Orders regarding ICF/IIDs.

This Order shall be effective September 28 at 12:01 a.m. and remain in full force and effect unless the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order at a sooner time and date.

Lance D. Himes
Interim Director of Health

September 24, 2020
Date