



4/28/20

Dear Parents and Guardians-

Orchard Place continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation. You will continue to receive regular Orchard Place Campus updates via email as the situation evolves. You can also reference all parent communication on the Campus page of the Orchard Place website at: <https://www.orchardplace.org/services/orchard-place-campus>.

Here are today's COVID updates-

1. When we started down the path of the current COVID restrictions, we knew they were going to continue until at least May 1st, per the direction of the Governor. However, in the Governor's proclamation yesterday, she has extended all current restrictions for Polk County and 21 other counties through May 15th. While the remaining 77 counties are opening some, we must continue to follow the current restrictions for the county where the PMIC is located even if you live in those other 77 counties. We continue to closely monitor and follow guidance from the CDC and DHS regarding the current COVID restrictions.
2. Last week, we reduced communication to twice per week in order to lower the overwhelming amount of communication. As we reflected on the information included in those twice weekly emails, it felt like those could be reduced even further to once per week. So, starting this week, you will receive a once per week email capturing all the COVID updates for the week on **Tuesdays**. As before, if an urgent matter arises, it will be communicated promptly.

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3. When we made the change to restrict home visits a few weeks ago, this included still allowing youth to do longer home visits in the form of modified 5-2's, more like 7-7's, right before discharge. Currently, we are not allowing youth to return from home visits to sleep in their bed on the night before discharge due to COVID risks.

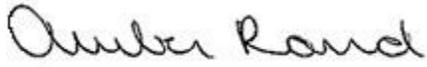
However, this is a state requirement for Orchard Place to be paid for all the overnights the child spent at home. Without the child sleeping in the bed here prior to discharge, we have had to make additional requests for payment and so far have been denied for these exceptions. We are now appealing these cases to an administrative law judge.

What does this mean now for your child? We have developed a more selective criteria and process for approving these home visits. The home visit request will be staffed with the therapist, attending psychiatric provider, the clinical director and the case manager to make a determination. We want to ensure a strong clinical case can be made outlining the necessity for these long visits because we know we will have to present our case in front of an administrative law judge in the future. We very much want youth to practice at home before discharge but must also balance the potential COVID risks and the financial risks for the agency.

If you have a child scheduled for an upcoming long home visit, please check in with your therapist to determine the next steps. Youth currently on long visits are already accounted for in above appeal process.

These are unprecedented times for everyone and can be challenging to navigate. We encourage you to continue to utilize your own self-care plans and social support systems. As always, your child's therapist or building supervisor are available to discuss your concerns or questions.

Sincerely,



Amber Rand, LMHC, IAADC
Campus Vice President



Dr. Stephen R. Mandler
Chief Medical Officer, Orchard Place
Board Certified in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry