



4/9/20

Dear Parents and Guardians-

We regretfully need to inform you that Orchard Place has received instruction from the Iowa Department of Human Services that in-person family visits need to be temporarily suspended as of **Monday April 13** due to concern about spread of COVID-19 virus in a facility. This decision was made based on guidelines from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We are taking this very seriously and we are going to compensate by making more video conferencing available for you to stay connected with your child. We have ordered additional technology in order to expand the use of Skype. We will have more details to share about those changes on Friday.

We support this change in approach because new information about how the virus spreads suggests that the 6-foot distance guidance is not sufficient to stop the spread of the virus, especially if you have a child or young adult living in your home who may be carrying and spreading the virus but not showing any signs of illness. Much of the spread is occurring within families at this time. DHS and Orchard Place will reevaluate this policy as the CDC and IDPH release new information and recommendations.

Youth **CAN** still participate in off-campus visits between Thur. April 9 and Sun. April 12 in coordination with your child's treatment team recommendations. We ask you to give us as much notice as you can regarding those visits so we can ensure your child's medication is ready.

We know the Easter holiday is an important one for family and religious traditions which is why we are allowing these visits to continue for this weekend only. We **STRONGLY URGE** you and

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Des Moines, Iowa 50315  
Phone: (515) 285-6781  
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Child Guidance Center  
808 Fifth Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
Phone: (515) 244-2267  
Fax: (515) 244-1922

PACE Juvenile Center  
620 Eight Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
Phone: (515) 697-5700  
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Orchard Place Foundation  
925 SW Porter Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50315  
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all family members to wear a mask while you have your child out for these visits. As children are known to be asymptomatic carriers of the virus, you or your child could inadvertently become the source of an infection for others and their families and staff. Unfortunately, we must ensure our staff have enough masks to wear on campus at this time, so do not have any additional masks to be able to provide to you. This link provides you with information about how make your own mask: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

It continues to be EXTREMELY important you follow all social distancing guidelines when you have your child out on a visit which includes limiting contact to just those in your immediate household. We understand this can be difficult especially when you may be used to having large Easter gatherings but these types of interactions seriously jeopardize the safety of your child, the other 87 children who live at Orchard Place and the 140 staff members of the Orchard Place campus.

If your child is currently on 5-2 home visits or scheduled to begin 5-2 visits soon, those will continue with slight modifications.

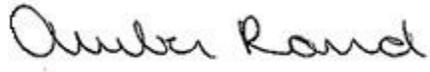
- You and your child will continue to participate in telehealth therapy sessions for individual and family sessions while on the visit.
- Your child will see their campus psychiatric provider on telehealth for their final appointment.
- Your child will NOT return on the weekends but instead would just stay out on a longer extended visit.
- Your child also will NOT return to Orchard Place to sleep on the final night before discharge.
- The discharge appointment will be conducted via telehealth with your therapist and you may only have to return to campus to get your child's personal items and medications.
- If for some reason you are on campus for the final discharge appointment, you will need to wear a mask while doing so.

Should your child experience issues while on 5-2 visits which required their return to campus, this could occur. Your child will be required to wear a mask for 14 days upon their return or until their new discharge date, whichever is shorter.

Lastly, just a reminder if you come to campus to drop off items for your child, please wear a mask while doing so. Also, just a reminder that you cannot stay to visit with your child since we are not allowing on-campus visits to occur. Thanks for your understanding.

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,

Handwritten signature of Amber Rand in black ink.

Amber Rand, LMHC, IAADC  
Campus Vice President

Handwritten signature of Dr. Stephen R. Mandler in black ink.

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