



June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian/Advocate,

As always, we hope this message finds you safe and well. As New York State starts to take a sigh of relief, rest assured, our guard is still up. We are continuing our efforts in the fight against COVID-19 with the same strength and determination as the day before. The health and safety of our individuals is paramount in every decision we make and this is evidenced by our success in tackling the many obstacles COVID-19 has sent our way. This success is not the result of one person, but the result of many committed and dedicated staff who continue to remain vigilant in strict hand hygiene and infection control practices.

With warmer weather upon us, we have developed backyard outdoor activities to keep your loved ones engaged and active. The Department of Health has released guidelines, of which to do these activities safely, that include social distancing, not sharing equipment and handwashing. At this time, the Department of Health is not recommending playgrounds, balls, Frisbees or other activities with the potential to come in contact with a frequently touched surface.

As time continues to pass, we understand frustration is growing with the inability to see your loved one. Please understand the suspension of family visitation in all programs is solely for their protection. We would be happy to arrange face-to-face video calls via Facetime, Google Meets or Zoom at your request. We welcome letters, cards, care packages and voice-to-voice calls. Our behavior support teams have been out in full force ensuring the emotional and mental well-being of individuals served. Please let us know how we can assist you to connect with your family member.

Head Injury Association leadership is available to answer any and all questions you may have about the care of your loved one. We are continuing to closely monitor the guidance from OPWDD, DOH and the Center for Disease Control. These have, and will continue to be, our primary source of information.

Thank you for your support, words of encouragement and strength as we continue on this journey together. We are all looking forward to brighter days ahead.

Sincerely,

Gina C. Baker, RN, MSN-NMEL  
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Head Injury Association  
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