



September 18, 2020

Dear Family Member,

I am pleased to announce that this week the Governor and NYS Department of Health reduced the required days a facility must remain COVID-Free to allow visitation. It was reduced from the prior 28 days COVID-Free to 14 days COVID-Free. Our current plan is to start face-to-face visitation again on Friday September 25, 2020. Unfortunately, if you have not heard in the news already, please be aware that the Governor and the NY State Department of Health issued new nursing home visitation guidance requiring ALL visitors to be tested prior to being allowed to visit. The visitors need to provide a negative test result taken within the past seven days of the visit. If we are not provided with this negative test result, we will not allow the visit.

As I have communicated in previous letters, all visits must be pre-scheduled and all visitors are also required to complete a health screening. The "ECF Visitor Response Plan" is available for your review on our website [www.oneidahealth.org](http://www.oneidahealth.org) located under the visitor restriction tab at the top of the page. Also available on our website, is an ECF Communications section at the bottom of the web page. Please reference this section for further updates.

To schedule a face-to-face visit, please contact **Gail Keiffer, Activity Director at (315) 363-6000 ext. 8313.**

I am terribly sorry that there is another barrier to visiting your loved one. The Senior Leadership of Oneida Health is working on a plan to offer our ECF families the means to get COVID tested. I hope to communicate that plan to you next week. Until then, please refer to the New York State Department of Health website for testing location or contact the New York State Corona Virus Hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

Please know that these requirements are not by our own choice and that we are following the State and Federal guidelines. Our top priority is keeping our residents safe. On behalf of myself and all the ECF staff, I thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Fortunato Scerbo III

Administrator