



September 23, 2020

Dear Family Member,

Last week I had communicated to you that visitation would begin again on Friday, September 25, 2020. I also explained that the Governor and NY State Department of Health are now requiring all visitors to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 7 days of the visit. You can find a testing site at www.health.ny.gov or contact the New York State COVID-19 Virus Hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

We understand providing a negative COVID-19 test every seven days of a planned in person visit is a challenge for you. This is a requirement of the NY State Department of Health that we must adhere to. We are not in a position at this time to offer this testing. We hope to develop a program sometime in the near future to offer testing to the ECF visitors. When that occurs, I will immediately notify you. In the meantime, you should visit the above website to find locations that are currently offering testing.

Oneida Health is continuing its window visits as well as iPad visits. Please continue to avail yourself of these means seeing and speaking with your loved one. We are also, through our statewide organization Leading Age, working to reduce the burden on you. For now, the state health department requires this strict measure to try and ensure that the virus does not enter Long Term Care facilities.

Please feel free to contact your elected representatives and/or the Governor's office to voice your concerns, if any, regarding this mandate. I am also available to answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Fortunato Scerbo III

Administrator