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April 3, 2020

To Executive Directors/CEOs of Residential Programs:

On March 13, 2020, Governor McMaster issued Executive Order 2020-08 restricting visitation in nursing facilities and Community Residential Care Facilities (CRCF). DDSN communicated this Order and the recommendation from the South Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to suspend visitation in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF). Most of you have initiated temporary restrictions on visitation in DDSN licensed residential settings. For those who have not, DDSN is recommending implementing visitor restrictions immediately to mitigate further spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

Our agency encourages family and friend involvement, but the welfare of those in your care and our collective workforces is paramount. We know this can be a stressful time for those you serve and their families. We encourage using technology (i.e., Skype, Facetime) to allow for virtual visits with family members, friends, and natural supports. DDSN wants to support our network during this global health crisis, and ask you to share ideas your agency has, or plans to implement, to maintain continuity and communication between individuals you serve and their families. We'll incorporate your good ideas in our situation reports.

Thank you in advance for your calm and continued commitment to serving citizens with disabilities and special needs. The health and well-being of those you serve, and your workforce is our highest priority.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at 803-898-9769 or via email at [mary.poole@ddsn.sc.gov](mailto:mary.poole@ddsn.sc.gov) and thank you again for your support of these restrictions.

Stay well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Poole".