Phase 1: Plan for Conducting Outdoor Visitation Utilizing Social-Distancing for the Arc of Plymouth and Upper Cape Cod

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines to allow the flexibility to restore outdoor visitation utilizing social distancing policy on a limited basis during the COVID-19 pandemic, adhering to recommendations from the CDC and DPH and following DDS guidelines, June 6, 2020, for individual programs visitation policy.

For the purpose of this document, the term “visitor” is defined as: Arc staff, family member(s), friend(s) or other party visiting the home.

Phase 1: Effective 6/19/20

Visitors will be permitted to conduct visitation in a designated outdoor area, such as the yard, patio, open porches, parking lot, local park (see guidance below) or driveway as long as all the requirements outlined in this plan are met.

- Home visits should NOT occur with anyone who is currently under isolation because they are presumed or confirmed COVID-19 positive or quarantined because of close or household contact.

- Visitors, as well as the individual, should be screened prior to the visit using the attached screening checklist, and temperatures should be taken just prior to the visit. Screenings should be completed telephonically within 1-2 hours prior to the visit. If anyone has a temperature above 100.0 F or answers “yes” to the screening questions, the Program Director and/or primary caregiver will be notified, and the in-person visit will be cancelled and rescheduled or conducted via telehealth (telephone or video).
  - ABI Residential:
    - The pre-visit screening will occur upon arrival to the home and will be conducted by Arc staff; screenings will take place outside of the entry door to the residence.
    - The ABI program must keep a log of all visitors, including name, date of visit, and staff on shift.

- Visits should be scheduled in advance. No enclosed outdoor spaces are permitted for home visits - this includes cars, enclosed porches, tents, etc. **if weather is not permitting, the visit will need to be rescheduled or conducted via telehealth. Weather forecasts should be monitored and proper notice to all parties should be sent out whenever possible.

- If the meeting is scheduled to occur at a local park or outdoor area where social distancing can be maintained, the primary caregiver will transport the individual to the destination in their car; Visitors should not transport the individual in their personal vehicle.
• No more than 2 visitors may be present at the visit; The total number of people present for the visit should not exceed four, including the individual. Exceptional circumstances can be reviewed with the program supervisor and exceptions will be made on a case by case basis.
  o Children and individuals at-risk are strongly encouraged to remain home.

• If the visitor, individual or housemates feel ill or are displaying any symptoms, the visit MUST be canceled immediately and rescheduled or conducted via virtual visit or telehealth. *Arc staff must provide immediate notification to their supervisor.

• Any person who participates in a visitation and develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, or new onset loss of smell or taste within 2-14 days after the visit must immediately notify the respective program of the date they were on site, the individuals they were in contact with, and the locations where the visit occurred.

• Programs should immediately screen individuals who had contact with the visitor to determine the level of exposure and follow up with the PCP.

• Visitors will not be allowed entry into the home for any reason; staff must be sure to plan accordingly, use the restroom prior to arriving at the home/visit location, ensure phone is charged etc.

• Physical contact of any kind should not occur – no hand shaking, hugs, or passing documents to and from each other, etc.
  o If contact is made inadvertently, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol should be used after contact

• Face coverings are required to be worn by staff and the care provider throughout the visit. Individuals will also be encouraged to wear face coverings if they can tolerate it and do so safely. Visitors should bring their own face coverings whenever possible however, in the event they do not have one, one will be provided.

• Visitors must remain a minimum of 6 feet apart from each person at the visit. If seated at an outdoor table, all parties must be able to adhere to social distancing standards.

• If maintaining a social distance of 6 feet is confusing or upsetting for an individual emotionally, please do not conduct the visit in-person. This type of visit may not be recommended for all individuals.

• Every attempt should be made to limit the time of the visit to limit exposure.

• Case Management: Specification within visit notes/documentation must be made to identify whether the visit was conducted in-person via social distancing practices or via telehealth.
Off-Site Visitation

Starting July 3, 2020, DDS issued guidance allowing individuals to go with family or loved ones for an off-site visit, including an overnight visit subject to the following:

- The individual is not currently under isolation because they are presumed or confirmed COVID-19 positive or quarantined because of close or household contact.

- The individual and visitor(s) must not have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and must not have a temperature of >100.0 deg F. Thermometers must be disinfected after each use, per the manufacturer instructions.

- The family member or loved one must sign an attestation form, attesting that:
  - All individuals who the individual plans on visiting are free from any symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, or new loss of taste or smell, and have not been in close contact with anyone with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

- Close contact will be prevented with anyone who has not been screened for symptoms of COVID-19.

- A face mask or covering will be worn by all visitors, and by the individual if they can do so safely, while unable to socially distance, including in the family home, and in other enclosed areas such as a car.

- If staying overnight, the individual will sleep in their own room, or if not possible, at least six feet from others, to the greatest extent possible.

- Medical attention will be sought by family and the individual’s program will be notified if the individual starts displaying symptoms of illness or comes into contact with a COVID-19 positive person while away on visit.

- Infection control protocols will be followed during the entirety of the visit.

- For home visits, family or loved ones will be asked to provide the names and contact information for any person the individual came into contact with during the visit in case contact tracing becomes necessary.
  - Additionally, family or loved ones should inform Program staff if the individual traveled out of state during the visit.

- Families or loved ones must monitor themselves and the individual for COVID-19 symptoms during the visit. Program staff/provider will screen the individual for COVID-19 symptoms and fever before they return to the individual program.

- To the extent possible, off-site visits and activities should occur outdoors where individual and visitors are able to maintain social distancing. Time spent in highly populated, public areas or other areas where the ability to social distance may be limited should be minimized.
• If the individual shows symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell, the family must seek medical attention and contact the individual’s program to discuss where the individual may be safely isolated. The individual may not be able to return to their place of residence until they are free of symptoms.

• Off-site visits will not be permitted for any individual who is currently under isolation because they are presumed or confirmed COVID-19 positive or quarantined because of close or household contact.

• Any person who participates in a visit with an individual and develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, or new onset loss of smell or taste within 2-14 days after the visit must immediately notify the program of the date of the visit, the persons they were in contact with, and the locations where the visit occurred.

• Once the individual returns to their place of residence, he or she should be proactively monitored for any symptoms of COVID-19 each day for fourteen days.

Visitation Policies Subject to Change

• DDS, an individual program, or provider may be required to change this policy with little notice as required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or local boards of health.

• Providers, facilities, or group homes may continue to prohibit visits on a case-by-case basis, if an individual, staff, or visitor tests positive or shows symptoms of illness, or it is determined visitation cannot safely be accommodated for individuals, visitors, or staff.
In-Person Services: Pre-Visit Screening

Date:       Staff Name:
Person Served Name:     Name of Person Contacted:

Individual
Have you had any contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

Do you, or anyone you have come into recent contact with, have any of the following symptoms? (Check all that apply)

☐ Fever over 100.0
☐ Cough
☐ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
☐ Chills
☐ Muscle pain
☐ Sore throat
☐ Loss of taste/smell
☐ Rash
☐ Diarrhea

☐ I do not, nor has anyone I have recently come in contact with, have any of the symptoms listed above.

Individual temperature prior to the visit: _________________

Phase 2: If ancillary or specialized services are to be provided in the home, record temperatures for everyone in the home: __________________________________

Visitors
Have you had any contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

Do you, or anyone you have come into recent contact with, have any of the following symptoms? (Check all that apply)

☐ Fever over 100.0
☐ Cough
☐ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
☐ Chills
☐ Muscle pain
☐ Sore throat
☐ Loss of taste/smell
☐ Rash
☐ Diarrhea

☐ I do not, nor has anyone I have recently come in contact with, have any of the symptoms listed above.

Staff temperature prior to the visit: _________________

Rev. 7.9.2020