



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Solnit North Community  
**FROM:** Vannessa L Dorantes LMSW, CT DCF Commissioner   
Dr. Brett Rayford, Solnit North Superintendent

**DATE:** December 5, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Update on Facility Operations

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Click here for a video message → [Solnit North Video](#)

Since March of this year, you all have done an excellent job ensuring the safety of everyone on the Solnit North campus in preventing the spread of COVID-19. This has been a great challenge. We have successfully maintained a small virus transmission footprint to date.

As we are witnessing across the country and to a lesser extent, here in CT, the pandemic transmission rate is rising. As of this writing, Solnit North has 2 staff members and 2 youth who have tested positive for the virus.

We have been in consultation with DCF's Medical Director, the Healthcare Staff at Solnit North and epidemiology experts at the State Department of Public Health. Due to community transmission at North, we are now, out of an abundance of caution, moving to a mitigation strategy.

The health and safety of all you-- the employees of Solnit North, and the youth who are placed there, continues to be our primary concern.

**Please review and adhere to the following mitigation strategies which have been developed:**

- Testing will occur for all youth twice a week.
- All youth will remain in quarantine, on their units, until all residents test negative over a two-week period.
- Testing will be provided for all staff on a weekly basis beginning on Monday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2020.

- Audits will be conducted throughout the facility to ensure proper procedures relating to wearing of PPE, social distancing and hand hygiene are being followed.
- Critical and essential staff shall continue to work following this exposure to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 provided they remain **asymptomatic** and have **not tested positive**.

**The following transmission mitigation precautions are in effect prior to and during each work shift:**

- **Pre-Screen:** Employees should not attempt to enter the workplace if any of the following are present: [symptoms](#) of COVID-19; temperature equal to or higher than 100.4
- **Screen at the workplace:** To limit movement around campus, additional temperature screening devices are being delivered to the facility. Auditing of any symptoms prior to and during each work shift will be conducted. Screening must happen before anyone enters the facility.
- **Wearing of PPE:** Everyone on campus must wear appropriate PPE in accordance with CDC and OSHA guidance and any state, local and Department requirements.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Everyone should practice frequent hand hygiene. [Hand Hygiene Recommendations | CDC](#)
- **Social Distance:** Everyone must make an effort to stay at least 6 feet apart from others and practice [social distancing](#) as work duties permit in the workplace.
- **Clean and disinfect workspaces:** [Clean and disinfect](#). We have increased the cleaning cadence of the facility.

**Additionally, in-person visitation at the Solnit North is being restricted at this time as are non-essential visits to the facility. Virtual contacts will be arranged when needed.**

Everyone needs to do their part while the threat of this virus is upon us. We continue to meet regularly and consult with public health experts. You will be updated as additional information becomes available. However, if you have questions, please call Solnit North Operations at **860-292-4060**

We again appreciate everyone's efforts to keep Solnit North safe and will get through this TOGETHER!

