



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*

*Department of Mental Health*

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[www.mass.gov/dmh](http://www.mass.gov/dmh)

## MEMORANDUM

To: Parents / Legally Authorized Representatives (LAR) of Youth in Intensive Residential Treatment Programs (IRTPs)

From: Janice LeBel, Director of System Transformation, CYF Division

Date: July 16, 2020

CC: IRTP Program Directors

Re: Parent/LAR Visitation at IRTPs: Return from Pass Guidance

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Based upon consultation provided by the Department of Public Health, updated implementation guidance to Commissioner Mikula's memorandum of 07/01/20 is being provided.

**Effective 07/17/20**, a revised Pass Agreement with Covid-19 prevention practices included in the form (template attached) will be utilized and an updated return from pass with a parent/LAR protocol will be adopted. The revised return protocol follows:

***In general***, when youth accompany their parent/LAR on pass in the community and adhere to the Pass Agreement and Covid-19 prevention practices (pre/during/post pass), youth will not be medically isolated upon return. Instead, there will be increased checking of the youth's vital signs, increased monitoring for Covid-19 symptoms, and a Covid-19 test administered 72 hours after the pass to ensure the safety of the youth, their peers on the unit, and staff. Once a negative Covid-19 test result has been obtained, a subsequent pass may be scheduled, as clinically indicated.

As with the previous guidance, these modifications will be closely monitored and may be suspended by DMH or the IRTP Program Director as individual, programmatic or systemic circumstances dictate.

Thank you.