

## **Resident and Family Engagement in Visitation Advocacy!**

The issue of reopening family visitation for residents of nursing homes and adult care facilities (ACFs) has been a focus of conversations with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Executive for several weeks. Seniors residing in Nursing Homes and ACFs have been kept from seeing their families for more than three months. This is challenging for residents and families alike, and it is undoubtedly having an impact on health outcomes for these residents. While we understand the delicacy of the matter, we believe that it is time that thoughtful decisions be made regarding family visitation in these settings.

**We are encouraging our residents and families to advocate with us for a thoughtful approach to reopening visitation.** Families should call the Governor's office and/or send an email urging them to allow visitation to begin, with safety measures in place. Below are some talking points that can be used:

- I want to urge the Governor to permit visitation in nursing homes and adult care facilities, like you have in group homes for people with disabilities.
- I haven't been able to visit my loved on who lives in a nursing home/adult care or assisted living facility since March
- *(Residents/my loved ones)* are showing signs of depression, anxiety, and related physical decline as a result of this social isolation, despite the providers best efforts to find ways to otherwise connect us with our loved ones.
- Safety guidelines can be implemented to ensure the health and safety for my loved one, myself and the rest of the residents and staff in the nursing home/adult care facility. The summer months allow for outdoor visitation which, for a variety of reasons, pose opportunities to visit with reduced risk, so we need to act now!

The Governor's office phone number is **1-518-474-8390** and by following this link <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>