



Dan Brown, Executive Director
Jeffrey S. Lewis, M.D., D.M.D., Medical Director

Tompkins County Sites

☐ *Administrative Bldg., Clinic,
Early Childhood, Residential and
Community Services*
3226 Wilkins Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 607.272.5891
Fax: 607.272.0188

☐ *Audiology Clinic*
619 W. State St. Ste. C
Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 607.882.9047
Fax: 607.882.9048

☐ *Counseling Programs*
at TST BOCES
Smith School
555 Warren Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 607.257.2353
Fax: 607.257.2510

Cortland County Sites

☐ *Early Childhood, Residential
and Community Services*
882 NYS Rt. 13
Cortland, NY 13045
Tel: 607.753.9375
Fax: 607.758.9287

☐ *Counseling Programs*
at OCM BOCES
1710 NYS Route 13
Cortland, NY 13045
Tel: 607.758.5100
Fax: 607.758.5146

Tioga County Sites

☐ *Early Childhood, Residential
and Community Services*
1277 Taylor Rd.
Owego, NY 13827
Tel: 607.687.8929
Fax: 607.687.8153

December 30th, 2020

Dear Racker Families, Staff and Community Members,

This week, Racker lost one of our residents due to complications from COVID-19. A cluster of cases was reported to the Tompkins County Health Department on December 7th. This is the first resident case in any Racker's 26 homes since the onset of the pandemic in March. Everyone in our Racker community is saddened and heartbroken at the loss of this amazing woman. We send our deepest condolences to her family, friends and all the people who have worked with her over the years. Grief counseling has been made available for any staff members who would like to take advantage.

In addition to the passing of one resident, two additional residents are currently hospitalized and are critically ill. COVID poses a larger, and more serious, risk in our residential homes. We have known about the increased mortality risk to people with disabilities who often have underlying health conditions and comorbidities and have learned a great deal from colleagues across the state and country who tackled outbreaks in group homes this year. As a result, we ensured that we stayed up to date and followed all protocols and guidance provided by health officials and medical personnel with regard to screening, cleaning and disinfection, mask wearing, and handwashing, implemented filtration systems in our homes, developed procedures to limit staff exposure in the community, and created cohorts to minimize potential spread. We are so grateful to the staff in our Residential Program and in all of our programs for their vigilance, dedication, and care. Our staff have done an amazing job in truly extraordinary circumstances.

As we all deal with this loss, we ask that everyone please wear a mask, wash your hands, limit your gatherings, and help reduce the spread of this virus. Racker is doing everything possible to reduce exposure to our homes, students, and families. If you are eligible for the vaccine, please make an appointment to receive it. It takes a community to break this trend and we count on our neighbors to do their part.

Our hearts go out to all the family and friends of the departed. We will keep you all in our thoughts and hope for healing through time and the comfort of joyful memories. Please also keep the two residents currently struggling in the hospital in your thoughts.

Dan Brown
Executive Director
Racker

Cris Donovan
Associate Executive Director
Racker

www.racker.org

We envision a world where all people know they belong.