



**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

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Racker Families, Staff and Community Members,

Last week, we were saddened to learn of the first COVID-19 death due to an outbreak in one of our homes. At that time, we were closely monitoring two critically ill residents from the same home. Sadly, yesterday, we learned that one of those residents passed away from complications related to the virus. She was a wonderful woman that brought joy to her family, friends and all the staff members that worked in the home. Her family and friends have our deepest condolences and they remain in our thoughts.

These losses are the result of the cluster reported to the Tompkins County Health Department on December 7, 2020. One person remains hospitalized, and we continue to closely monitor their condition and hope for their complete recovery.

While our community grieves for the passing of these two women, we continue to follow the guidance of our health officials, and remain diligent in our safety precautions. These deaths have devastated our residential program after nine months without a single COVID-19 case for the residents in our homes. We are all heartbroken for their families, their housemates, their friends, and the dedicated staff who put their heart into every moment of their important work. Please keep these people in your thoughts as they mourn.

These are truly difficult days, but in the midst of this tragic time, there is good news on the horizon. The vaccine is available, and many of the staff in our programs are eligible as part of phase one. Racker strongly encourages all eligible employees to get the vaccine and keep our community safe.

Please keep all of these families and people in your thoughts, and do everything you can do keep our community safe and healthy.

Dan Brown  
Executive Director  
Racker

Cris Donovan  
Associate Executive Director  
Racker