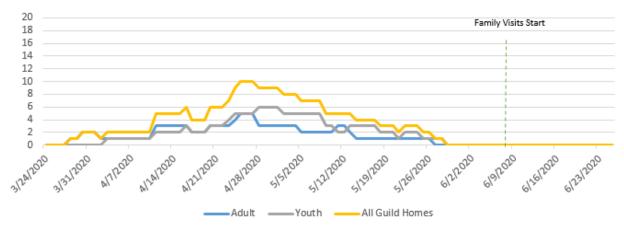


June 26, 2020

Dear Guild Community:

As we all watch the news and see the incredible surges in COVID infections in the south and west of the country, I am pleased to inform you that The Guild's COVID exposure rate remains stable at zero! This success allows us to move forward carefully with expanding opportunities for individuals to access more of the community.





Community Experiences

Beginning today, June 26, 2020, The Guild's residents will expand socially-distant community experiences (CEs) to include parks, open fields, walking trails, vacant basketball courts, and similar activities. In order to maintain safety/well-being and practice social distancing the following constraints have been put on CEs for the time being. They are subject to change as new public health guidelines become available.

- All outings must be approved by the Manager/Assistant Manager/designated shift lead.
- Outings must be on the approved list which is posted in your house.
- Any changes to outings must be communicated to your manager or the on call manager.

- No more than six (6) people (including staff) should be out at a time. This
 means the group can be split or numerous outings can happen
 throughout the day to ensure everyone gets out.
- CE checklist must be filled out completely for each outing. The checklist has been revised and has new questions/prompts.
- Masks must be worn by staff at all times. Students/adults should also be prompted to wear their mask for the duration of transport.
- Vans or backpacks must have hand sanitizer available for use for both staff and individuals served.
- Interior of vans must be wiped down with sanitizer or cleaning wipes after each use.

If you want to learn more about your individual's CE schedule, please contact your house manager for details.

In-Person Learning for Day Students

On June 18, The Guild School announced that we will begin in-person learning for day students on Thursday, July 9, 2020. The Guild School is working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and public health experts to develop standards and protocols to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure to children, youth, and staff at school. There will be a Question and Answer Session for day student parents/guardians on July 2, 2020 at 5:30pm. Day student families will receive a separate email from Annie Willis, chief education officer, with a link to the meeting.

Visitation

It has been an amazing few weeks watching families and their (adult) children be reunited at visits. We know that these restricted visits are not ideal, but a necessary part of government regulators' phased approach to safe community engagement. We are awaiting further direction from our licensors to expand family visits to walks, meals, and off-site excursions. We will alert you as soon as those permissions come to us from state regulators.

In addition, we continue to wait for Department of Children and Families (DCF) social workers to resume supervised visitations. In the meantime, The Guild is providing electronic access to families and has scheduled DCF students to receive one-to-one time with a preferred staff member in lieu of in-person family visits. We know that staff is not a replacement for genuine family; however, we want to be sure that students do not feel left out of the visitation process. The Guild will continue to advocate with DCF to resume supervised visits.

Adult Day Programs

The Guild has been asked by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to share this letter from Commissioner Ryder. The letter explains the process by which DDS is considering the limited reopening of day programs. The Guild will

continue to work with families, DDS, and the agencies that provide day and employment support to your family member as this reopening process evolves.

Thank you all for your thoughts, comments, and questions about the reengagement process. I know that this is a grueling experience for individuals, families, and staff members. Social distance is the antithesis of the environment that The Guild strives to nurture for our community. We will continue to provide you with the best information available moving forward as we seek to reconnect community members safely.

As always, if you have thoughts you would like to contribute, I'm available to talk, listen or read what you'd like to share.

Take care,

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