

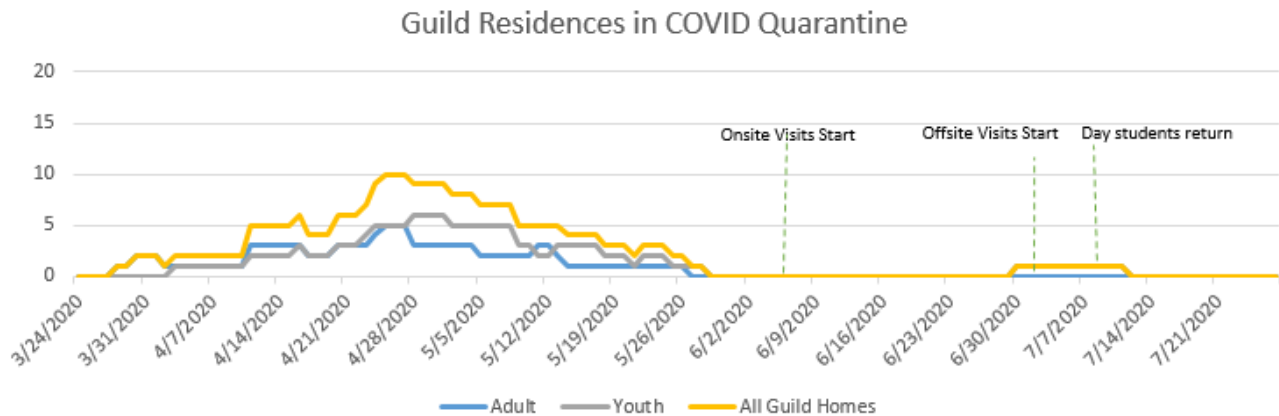


July 28, 2020

Dear Guild Community:

As we continue to watch the trends of COVID infections in Massachusetts and New England, many are looking for information about if and when The Guild (and the rest of the world) will return to “normal” after the COVID-19 pandemic. While we do not have a clear prediction on the return to normalcy at The Guild, we do have information about how we are planning our next steps.

As you know, The Guild began onsite family visits on June 9, 2020 and limited community experience (CE) trips on June 26, 2020. The Guild expanded to more extensive CE trips and offsite, home visits on July 3, 2020. Additionally, The Guild School’s day students returned to onsite education on July 9, 2020. Throughout those changes, The Guild has maintained a low frequency of COVID exposure.



The Guild continues to be fortunate in that we have not experienced any major COVID-related illnesses or deaths; however, we know that rates of illness and death vary significantly across the country. As we forge ahead with opportunities for individuals to have more connection to their “pre-COVID” activities, we continue to prepare plans to respond to any possible resurgence in the northeast region of the United States. We will continue to follow the guidance of our licensing agencies and the Department of Public Health and monitor the health trends across The Guild.

The Guild's Adult Program

On July 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services released guidelines by which adult day programs can demonstrate readiness to reopen, which can be found on The Guild's [website](#). We recognize that individuals, families, and day programs will move at different paces in this process. The Guild is committed to supporting individuals 24/7 as needed while the reopening process evolves.

The Guild School

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requires that all school districts and private special education schools submit a preliminary plan for reopening by July 31, 2020 and a comprehensive plan for reopening by August 10, 2020. In both of these documents, schools/districts are required to outline three educational structures: in person, remote, and hybrid models.

Currently, The Guild School is providing nearly 100 percent of educational services in person. For day students, those services are being provided in the school building. For residential students, those services are being provided in The Guild's group homes with some individual related services being provided remotely to limit the number of "close contacts" within the group homes.

Moving forward, The Guild School will continue to prioritize in-person learning for all students as long as health and safety allow. We will work to readmit residential students to the Concord school building slowly with priority given to student cohorts that cannot gain meaningful interaction in another community setting due to inability to maintain consistent COVID safeguards, i.e. wearing a mask, maintaining social distance, etc. In the meantime, residents who are able to maintain consistent COVID safeguards will be given increasing opportunities to engage in learning activities outside of the group homes while following COVID protocols.

Again, we recognize that each student and family may move toward community re-engagement at different paces. We are reviewing the survey data provided by families about preferences for returning to the Concord building and we will use this information to inform The Guild's return-to-school plan for DESE on August 10, 2020.

Please keep in mind that in the event of a COVID resurgence, either at The Guild or in Massachusetts, The Guild may need to revert back to either the hybrid model of instruction for residential students or a completely remote plan for day students and/or residential students in quarantine.

We will provide you with more information as we progress through the return-to-Concord plan or if we encounter any challenges to moving forward.

Webinar

The Guild closed our fiscal year 2020 on June 30. It's hard to believe that it has been (only) a year! We have experienced so many successes and challenges this year both together and at a distance. It seems more than time for us to gather and review the year that has gone by and talk about plans moving forward, including some new program opportunities.

Please join me on August 3, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. for a guardians/families-only Webinar presentation on The Guild's accomplishments and challenges for FY20 and a look ahead to FY21. There will be a live chat function on the webinar; so you can send your questions in to be answered in real time.

Click the link to register for [The Guild's FY20 Review for Guardians and Families](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. I look forward to "chatting" with you on Monday!

Of course, if you cannot attend the webinar on Monday, I am always happy to chat on the phone or by email!

Take care,

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