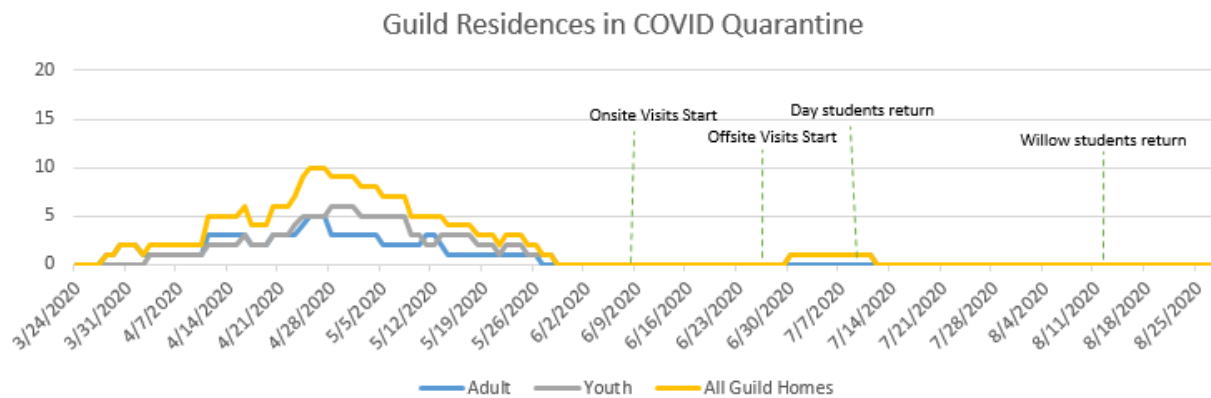




August 28, 2020

Dear Guild Community:

The Guild continues to experience a healthy response to expanded opportunities for interaction. As you know from recent updates, offsite family visits and the reintroduction of some students to The Guild School’s academic building have not created increased rates of COVID-19 close contact and subsequent quarantine.



Given these positive trends, The Guild School will move to return Dogwood House to academic programming in Concord on September 8, 2020. Pending two weeks of safe return of these students, subsequent houses will be invited to return to the main academic building. Please keep in mind that The Guild School must follow all Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) [protocols](#) regarding COVID-19 prevention and safety, which includes how to respond to COVID-like symptoms.

Enhanced COVID Protections during Autumn and Winter Months

As we move into the cooler months and toward flu season, Massachusetts’ governing bodies have instituted several new directions to schools and residential care providers to ensure ongoing success in slowing the spread of COVID-19, including surveillance testing and flu shots.

1. Surveillance Testing

Per order of the [Executive Office of Health and Human Services](#) (EOHHS), The Guild is required to establish plans for ongoing COVID-19 testing for all employees. Specifically, all Guild employees must have evidence of a COVID-19 test by September 15, 2020 and be prepared to engage in ongoing testing through at least, December 2020.

In fulfillment of this requirement, The Guild is excited to be working with [The Broad Institute](#) of MIT and Harvard to conduct the testing onsite across The Guild. The Broad Institute was launched in 2004 to improve human health by using genomics to advance understanding of the biology and treatment of human disease, and to help lay the groundwork for a new generation of therapies. With this partnership, students and residents will be able to participate in testing as well.

Fortunately, there are several new and less-invasive testing mechanisms available and approved, including nasal swabs, making the testing process more comfortable yet still highly effective. Information will be forthcoming from human resources (for employees) and health services (for individuals) regarding the testing process, including guardian consent forms for students and residents who wish to be tested.

2. Flu Shots

As we move toward flu season, public health experts and Massachusetts' regulators have grave concerns about the severity of additional respiratory illnesses alongside of COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, all Massachusetts' students are now required to obtain annual flu shots as part of their vaccination protocols. The Guild will be offering the flu vaccine to all students and residents through onsite vaccination clinics. Of course, students and residents are welcome to use their own medical providers to obtain flu shots as well. The Health Services' Department will reach out to families beginning next week to provide more information and obtain the necessary guardian consents.

Additionally, The Guild will offer flu vaccines to employees at The Guild's Concord headquarters on Wednesday, September 16th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The vaccinations will be administered by Walgreens Pharmacy. Specific information will be sent directly to staff.

Please keep an eye out for information from The Guild's [Health Services Department](#) and [Human Resources Department](#) for information on how to access these testing options and more.

Be well,
Amy Sousa
Chief Executive Officer
Cell: 781-330-5189
Email: asousa@guildhumanservices.org