



Community, Work & Independence, Inc.

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February 8, 2021

Dear Families, Advocates, Friends, Staff, Care Managers and Service Recipients:

We want to again take an opportunity to update you on the status of our COVID-19 vaccination efforts for residents in our IRAs and our staff, our plans to re-open site-based services, and the overall status of quarantine and/or infection among our staff and service recipients. Things are moving rapidly, so we will work to update you more frequently over the coming weeks.

Our Re-Opening Committee has been meeting consistently and regularly twice per week since the closing of our site-based services on January 4th, 2021. We established re-opening parameters based on infection rates and other key factors, using Warren County data, and we are pleased that infection rates have reached a level (3.5% rolling seven day average) where we may begin to plan for re-opening. At this point in time, we plan tentatively to implement Phase 1 to re-open our Community Pre-Vocational Services for individuals living with families and family care providers on Monday, February 15th. We plan tentatively to re-open our Day Habilitation Services, beginning with individuals living with families and family care providers, on Wednesday, February 17th. Our managers in both of these divisions have reached out to families to determine who is interested/ready to return. We will continue to monitor closely the County and State COVID infection rates and may need to adjust re-opening plans or status as necessary.

We are pleased to continue to report that due to the vigilance of our staff, at the time of this letter being written, we currently have no COVID-19 infections in our residences and there are no residences under precautionary quarantine. We have continued the precautions we have had in place throughout the pandemic period, including mandatory wearing of masks for staff, social distancing, frequent cleaning of highly touched surfaces and vehicles, and daily health screenings for all staff and service recipients. We continue to work closely with the County Departments of Health to track exposure, quarantine requirements, and testing results.

Along with our preventative measures, we continue to conduct a widespread educational campaign among staff, our CWI residents and their families regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. We have also partnered with our County Departments of Health and Glens Falls Hospital to ensure that all staff and service recipients who wish to be vaccinated are provided that opportunity. To date, 149 staff and 41 CWI residential

service recipients have received at least their initial vaccine dosage and many of these have received their second dosage as well.

In regards to the vaccine, the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities just released an announcement that, beginning Monday February 15th, individuals with disabilities who live in non-certified settings (for example, those living with families, family care providers, in the community, etc...) will now be eligible to receive the vaccine. This is exciting news as it will provide virtually all of our service recipients who wish to be vaccinated the opportunity to do so. More information is available on the New York State Department of Health website at <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/> Our Day Services Managers will be reaching out to you to provide more specifics regarding vaccine resources and access and you may reach out to your loved one's Care Manager for additional information as well.

We will continue to provide weekly updates as we continue this process. Should you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Noel Granger, Division Director of Day Services at 518 793-4700, ext. 12114, Sally Hawley, Division Director of Employment Services at 518 793-4700, ext. 12155, or Amber Coppolo, Division Director of Clinical Services at 518 793-4700, ext. 12170. As always, the health and safety of our service recipients and staff remain our top priority and we wish each of you continued good health.

Sincerely,

Noel Granger

Noel Granger
Division Director Day Services