



July 27, 2020

To: Parents/Guardians, Persons Served and Providers
From: MYEP Sr. Leadership
Re: Re-Opening of the MYEP Adult Day Program

Dear Parents/Guardians, Persons Served and Providers:

We are writing to update all of you on the progress with the reopening of the MYEP Adult Day Program. The original plan was to reopen the Adult Day Program in a 3 phased approach, with the first phase planning to begin July 6, 2020. (Please refer to memo dated June 12, 2020 that outlines the phased approach reopening process). Towards the end of June, there was an alarming trend in which there was a significant spike in positive cases across the state of Iowa, with Johnson County showing positive case numbers at levels it had not seen since the beginning of the pandemic (and higher). The rate at which the cases were increasing was cause for enough concern to postpone the reopening until July 27, 2020. Over recent days, the trend in the increase positive cases is slowing down within Johnson County, but the prevalence of overall positive cases within the county is still at a level that is comparable, if not higher, to numbers in April (which was the previous peak). Due to this, the decision has been made to postpone the reopening until further notice.

When will we reopen our Day Program?

In the past, we have provided targeted dates for reopening. It has been determined providing dates for targeted reopening was somewhat arbitrary in nature as we cannot control the rate of spread and prevalence of the virus. We can identify trends and patterns of spiked increases (i.e. holidays), but we cannot predict the significance of the spread. We have been tracking positive cases within the state and county since the early stages of the pandemic. Moving forward, we will continue to do so and identify a level of metrics in which we believe the data obtained supports the decision for us to safely reopen.

How will we use a metrics system to determine our start date?

When we were initially 'ramping up' and preparing for the reopening of the day program (May), the total number of positive cases within the county ranged between 40-60; with the daily increases occurring between 0-9 per day and the percentage of positive cases ranging between 1%-6%. Beginning mid-June, the daily increases went into double digits ranging from 20+-60+ per day and the total number of positive cases jumped from 60+ to 529, at its highest; with the percentage of positive cases ranging between 6%-17%. As stated above, over the past few days, there is a noted pattern of a downward trend, which is positive, and we hope the trend continues in this direction.

We have made the decision to continue to utilize the metrics for Johnson County, provided by the state of Iowa, as our guiding factor(s) in determining when we will open. The decision to re-open our program will be based upon the metrics, including all of the above mentioned factors, maintaining at a level we feel comfortable; with the metrics being at a stabilized level similar to those in May/early June (with daily positive cases ranging between 1%-6% for a continuous time period).

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We know and understand the delay in reopening may have a negative impact on the people we serve, their families and their caregivers. ***We want to reassure all of you our goal is to reopen our day program.*** We are hopeful, with the mandated mask ordinance in effect in Iowa City, we will continue to see a downward trend in the positive cases within the city and county. Our goal is to reopen under conditions, including the prevalence of the virus within Iowa City and Johnson County, that we deem as safe to do so. As we continue to monitor the daily metrics, we will communicate with all parties as we discuss and identify a potential return date.

We appreciate everyone's understanding and flexibility during this time.

Sincerely,

Megan Gerber
Chief Program Officer

"MYEP is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing advocacy and person-centered services which facilitate personal growth and community inclusion to people with disabilities."