

July 31, 2020

Memo to families and people we support

We are pleased to announce phase 1 of our reopening for programs at The Arc, Oneida-Lewis will start Monday, August 3rd.

The programs that will be opening on Monday are Kirkland, Venture, Fine Arc, Marcy Without Walls (WOW), Stowe Street, and Lowville Without Walls (WOW).

We have worked tirelessly to craft reopening plans for programs that allow us to do so safely and responsibly. Those plans have been submitted to OPWDD. It's important to note that capacity at the programs is limited and only people living independently in the community or with families will be attending. There are many protocols to be followed to protect both staff and the people we support.

- No visitors will be allowed at any of the sites.
- Mandatory health screenings will occur before every shift, including temperature checks.
- Staff will wear face coverings at all times.
- We have increased the frequency of cleanings, with staff disinfecting throughout the day.
- Routine cleaning breaks happen every two hours to include all areas and surfaces with cleaning checklists maintained.
- Each site will be sanitized with a Clorox 360 fogging machine no fewer than once a week, with agency vehicles disinfected after each use.
- The capacity in vans and vehicles transporting people to and from programs has been reduced to 50%, with face coverings mandatory for all passengers.
- Each person has a scheduled arrival and departure time to alleviate congestion and traffic at those times.
- Traffic patterns inside the programs have changed to allow one-way flow.
- All physical spaces have been rearranged to allow for 6-foot distancing between tables/desks. Common areas are limited to 50% capacity.
- New signs promoting safety, hygiene, and social distancing have been placed in each site.

Those are just some of the new policies and practices in place. We will closely monitor the programs and evaluate our processes to make any necessary changes for the health and well-being of all.

How things progress during phase 1 will determine the next steps in the continuation of our reopening plans across the agency. We remain in contact with the families of the people we serve to provide updates, and thank you for your patience and understanding as we begin this reopening process.