

Cedars

Creative, Productive, Joyous Lives



Dear Cedars Families and Partner Organizations....

I've felt it's been important to stay in regular contact with you during these uncertain times and provide the most up to date information. This week's message is from Cedars Day Program Management Team, who have been hard at work creating meaningful experiences while we shelter at home -- and who have also been planning diligently for the future.

Stay healthy and safe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck".

Chuck Greene
Executive Director

P.S. Hope to see you all tomorrow, May 16th at 1pm for the [Virtual CFA Meeting!](#)



For the past few months, our daily lives have shifted dramatically and we've all taken on new responsibilities. We appreciate the ways in which we've been able to **work together with families and partner organizations** to ensure our shared mission – the health and safety of individuals at Cedars.

To the families and residential providers of our day program participants - **thank you so much for all you are doing to provide support for Cedars day program participants during our day program closure.** We know it must be quite challenging given the change in routines necessary to avoid the spread of the virus causing COVID-19.

While we have not yet received direction from GGRC or DDS about when and in what manner day programs will re-open, we are beginning the planning process for a gradual return to day programs. As you can imagine, this is a very complex and unprecedented situation. While we are working through this, we wanted to fill you in on **a few things you should know and a few things you can do** to help to prepare the participants.

Our main concern is for the safety of all individuals we serve and our staff members. We are exploring many options including opening in phases and will keep you posted on our plans. What we do know is that the ability to wear a mask, maintain good social distancing practices, and compliance with proper washing of hands will be extremely important for any individuals coming together as a group. **We will communicate more as our regulations and plans become more well-defined, but for now, here are some things you can do to help people get ready for programs to re-open:**

- Help your family members/residents **learn to wear a mask for extended periods of time.** When in program the only time the mask will be off is during mealtime.
- **Purchase or make enough masks for them to have two clean or new masks for each day of the week,** one to wear and one spare. If you are using cloth masks, they will need to be freshly laundered. We will plan to have enough on hand in case a mask breaks or get lost, but each person will most likely need a mask to get on the van each morning.
- **Purchase a few working thermometers** for checking temperatures before leaving the home. Keeping a chart with daily temperature

- **Teach thorough hand washing techniques:**
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>.
- **Teach social distancing skills** and practice staying 6 feet apart while doing daily activities and eating.
- Generally, please **prepare residents or family members to expect new routines** and teach them that these routines are necessary for them to be able to participate safely with their peers and their staff.

Here is a link to some information you might find helpful:

<https://ddi.wayne.edu/covid19>.

For many participants it can take a while to get used to changes in a routine, so we wanted to share this information now to allow time to practice. We hope this can help participants feel more comfortable with these safety procedures and allow for an easier transition when the time comes to reopen.

Thank you so much for your support in this. We miss seeing everyone and look forward to when we can safely be at program again.

Warm regards,

Cedars Day Program Management Team

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