

Dear Staff,

Re-Open? What's Next?

Over the past few weeks we have seen the slow re-opening of the area to include businesses, restaurants, churches, and barbers and hair dressers. There continue to be many questions about our field, our programs, and the people we serve.

I am happy to report again that as of this writing we have had no positive cases in any of our facilities for people we support or staff. I am very grateful as well as thankful for all the persistence of our staff to remain vigilant with hand-washing, disinfecting and proper care of PPE. Each day that we remain COVID-free is a day to be thankful for.

This brings us back to the question – Re-Open? How, when, what's next? We have addressed our administrative sites with routine screening and documentation. Under the NY Forward we are planning the gradual re-opening of our work center at Washington Street. This will follow the NYS recommended guidelines for safe business re-opening at a limited capacity.

OPWDD, the Department of Health, and the Governor's Office has NOT yet addressed how/when to re-open our day service programs. They also have NOT addressed the visitation at our IRAs or the ability to do limited community-based activities. From all reports these areas are being reviewed and guidance is being developed.

We are in touch with families and other providers to determine which practices we should implement to ensure safety and have everyone feel comfortable returning to our sites.

Although we are looking forward to some kind of new routine, I would not expect anything to go back to the ways of pre-COVID.

I do want to assure everyone that we are listening, learning, and acting in all ways to ensure safety but also bring us to our new normal routine as quickly as possible.

My heartfelt thanks again for continuing to show great dedication and commitment during this incredibly unusual time.

Donna



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