



July 10, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

We are sending this email to provide you with updates and information about the reopening of Cape Abilities Day Program centers; the Day Program guidelines and protocols; and the new visitation policy for Residential Programs.

Reopening of Day Program Centers

At this time, we are hopeful and excited to open our Day Program centers on Monday, July 20, 2020 - although this is still a tentative date that requires final approval.

This target re-opening date applies to our Day Habilitation, Employment and/or Community Based Day Supports (CBDS) programs at our Lyndon Center, Cochran Center and our Falmouth Center.

This is a tentative date because Cape Abilities is aligning its re-opening plans with the multi-phased reopening plans and guidelines set forth by the Office of Governor Baker and our related state agencies. We received the final guidelines on Thursday, July 9th and we are continuing our preparations align with them. In addition, we do not have final approval to resume our Transportation program although we are working with our state agencies to secure their approval. This reopening plan is subject to an approval vote from our Board of Directors and this Board vote is scheduled for a July 14th meeting.

Our plan to re-open at reduced capacity so that we can assure maximum participant safety aligns our day program guidelines and protocols with the most up-to-date guidelines and information for physical distancing as directed from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Controls and state and local agencies and officials. These will allow us to welcome back 19 of 100 (19%) of our participants in Lyndon Day Hab, 6 of 42 (14%) of our participants in Cochran Day Hab, 5 of 14 (36%) of our participants in Falmouth CBDS and 15 of 41 (37%) of our participants in Hyannis CBDS.

We understand that opening day program centers at limited capacity creates unmet needs for many of the individuals, families, and care givers we serve and it is upon us to adapt and evolve our programming to meet that need; in our ongoing effort to do so, we will

continue delivering online, virtual programming for participants that are not immediately able to physically attend Day Program at a center. In addition, we are designing an inclusive and innovative program model in hopes of delivering day program services to current participants in the community and at their residences.

Next week, we will call all families, guardians, and caregivers of day program participants to discuss if their loved one is able to attend programming at one of our Day Program centers. For individuals unable to attend programming at one of our Day Program centers, we will work with each individual in hopes of providing virtual, home and/or community-based programming.

If you have any questions regarding information about the Cape Abilities Reopening Plan, please contact Leah LaCross llacross@capeabilities.org. For Day Habilitation specific questions, please contact Josephine Fennel at jfennel@capeabilities.org. And for CBDS or Vocational specific questions, please contact Jamie Crowell at jcrowell@capeabilities.org.

Guidelines & Protocols for the Reopening of Day Programs

The health, safety and well-being of all day program individuals and staff is the top priority for reopening our program centers. We will re-opening our programs with deliberate practices and protocols aligned with the most up-to-date guidelines as directed from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Controls and our state and local funding agencies and officials. We want to provide you with these guidelines and protocols, so you can review them closely in advance of making any decisions about your loved one returning to a program center.

[Click here to view the "Day Program Planning and Preparedness" checklist](#)

[Click here to view the "Participant Program Entry Safety" checklist](#)

[Click here to view the "Safety Guidelines and Protocols for Day Program Operations"](#)

If you have any questions regarding these please contact Kathleen White kwhite@capeabilities.org or Michele Savini msavini@capeabilities.org.

New Visitation Guidance in our Residential Programs

The visitation guidance for residential programs has been updated and relaxed. Visitors, including family members and guardians, will still not be allowed in the residential homes; but the length of the visits will be unrestricted. Families will still have to stay outside with their loved ones, but they will no longer be restricted to a half-hour visit. Visitors may bring food for their loved one, but it cannot be shared with others. Food must be clearly labeled for the individual and no one else may have any. And finally, families will be allowed to bring their loved ones home for a day, overnight or a weekend; however, the family member must sign an attestation that they will follow several strict guidelines provided by DDS.

This updated guidance can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/news/dds-releases-updated-guidance-on-visitation-to-residential-programs>.

We invite you to contact our Director of Residential Homes, Michael Scarpellini at mscarpellini@capeabilities.org or our Program Director HSBC, Amanda Dana at adana@capeabilities.org, with any questions or concerns regarding Residential Programs.

We will continue being as proactive and communicative as possible in this decision-making process, to keep you updated and informed with our official information about Day Program reopening and other information and updates for families, guardians and caregivers.

Please be safe,



Jonathan Sproul
President & CEO
508-737-9405
jsproul@capeabilities.org



COMPASSION



INCLUSION



INNOVATION



INTEGRITY



RESPECT
