

September 21, 2020

To Parents/Guardians,

As of September 21, 2020, DDD has permitted day programs to open at limited capacity once a program has met all of their reopening criteria. We wanted to share with you some of the changes we have made to ensure everyone's health and safety.

- All individuals, staff, contracted professionals, and visitors must be cleared for admittance to the facility daily, through screening, including temperature checks.
- All staff are required to wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth.
- We will be promoting healthy hygiene practices.
- We are instituting new safety precautions to handle food, supplies and personal belongings.
- Visitation in the center shall be strictly limited during operating hours.
- We are increasing the frequency of cleaning equipment and surfaces especially doorknobs, light switches, countertops, and restrooms during operating hours.

If an individual or staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at Githens, we will immediately separate them from the others in an isolated area until they can be picked up. The caregiver picking the individual up shall be advised to contact a healthcare professional and have them evaluated for COVID-19. If the individual presented with a fever of over 100.4 and other symptoms the facility will require a negative test for COVID-19 and doctor's note before their return. We ask you to inform us immediately if the person tests positive for COVID-19. We are required to notify the local health department of any confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 occurring at Githens, and cooperate with them if any contact tracing is needed.

It is every person's responsibility to assist in keeping the individuals we all serve and value as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, individuals, families, guardians and staff must monitor for signs, symptoms and fever of those choosing to return to congregate day services and not send individuals in if they are sick or think they may be. We also ask that you notify us if anyone in your household has been exposed to COVID-19.

It is important to note that, even with prudent steps being taken to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection, neither the day program provider nor the Division can guarantee that COVID-19 transmission will not occur. For this reason, it is of the utmost importance that the individual seeking to participate in day program services, and those important to them (family, guardian and provider) discuss the overall risk to the individual's health.

We look forward to seeing you in our Day Hab program, either in our private Facebook group, in our one-to-one supports or now back here in program.

Sincerely,

John O'Leary
Executive Director