



August 14, 2020

Dear Pathfinder Families,

If there was ever a time to be isolated on our bucolic campus, this summer is that time. The weather has been unusually pleasant allowing all of us to enjoy more time outside. The other day as I was walking down Chenango Road towards the Pavilion and it struck me how many residents were outside: on their decks enjoying the outdoors, listening to music, chatting with friends, or taking an afternoon summer nap 😊! It was a wonderful sight and reminded me of how fortunate we are for our beautiful campus.

Week 22 is in the books. Here are some brief, but important updates:

- Day Services opening activities are going well. Residents enjoy getting off campus and spending time in a different space with familiar staff.
- Our Behavior Services Department has developed some universal COVID-talking points for staff to follow while supporting our residents. We have attached this for your information in hopes that we will all use similar language as we assist our folks through this pandemic (following this letter).
- Family Weekend 2020 is officially canceled. Unfortunately, the conditions will not warrant an in-person gathering. We are considering a virtual event. We will keep you posted on this.
- Medical appointments are returning to normal. We have more in-person appointments and our podiatry and dental clinics are resuming. We were successful providing remote healthcare for the past five months, but there is no substitute to in-person healthcare for many health conditions.
- Area schools are re-opening in a few weeks. We have all the opening plans and have conducted a preliminary impact assessment. There will be some issues to contend with initially, but they are not overwhelming. The issues will become significant if schools close due to positive cases. The Residential Department will have the greatest impact if schools close. I am meeting with residential management staff to develop contingency plans.
- Please visit our updated KWC website at this link: <https://kwcdownsyndrome.org>. The AADMD and NTG recently created COVID-19 videos to help us understand the impact it has on individuals with I/DD. Topics include support for caregivers, health concerns, staying healthy/preventing the spread, social distancing and meaningful engagement.
- Unfortunately, we continue to suspend transportation services for off-campus home visits. We are consumed with the multitude of demands COVID-19 has placed on our community and we just don't have the personnel to support this activity.
- We are conducting routine internal COVID-19 audit reviews for compliance for all departments. The data thus far is very encouraging.

“ that each life may find meaning”[®]

**3 Chenango Road · Edmeston, New York 13335-2314
(607) 965-8377 · www.pathfindervillage.org**

Wednesday afternoon was our annual Residents' Ice Cream Social. Held in the Pavilion, the residents had a great time. The weather was beautiful, the ice cream was delicious, and the laughs and conversation were endless! Please visit our Facebook page [at this link for pictures](#); it was another well-planned, well-run event that was successful through the collaborative efforts of Food Service/Ancillary, Day Service, Residential, Development and Enrichment staff.

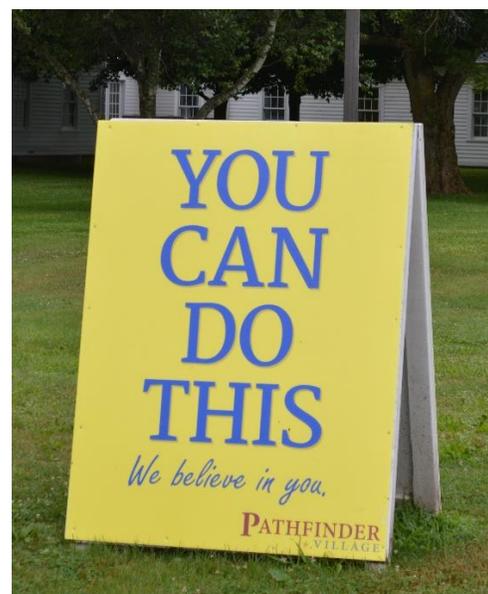


Looking ahead, Pastor Doug has another virtual Chapel Service scheduled for this weekend, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8mkpNveBSg&feature=youtu.be>

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation...we will be in this COVID state far longer than we anticipated. We need to keep our spirits up and faith in one another! YOU CAN DO THIS...we believe in you 😊!

Be well,

Paul C. Landers
President & Chief Executive Officer
planders@pathfindervillage.org
607-965-8377 ext.



Individual Home Visit & Community Integration Safety & Teaching Methods

Due to the continued risks associated with travel and community integration, it is imperative that individuals are well-informed and understanding of the safety measures involved. These measures include, but are not limited to, social distancing, effective hand hygiene, as well as mask compliance and tolerance. As a team, we believe staff should use universal responses and teaching methods to better support individuals with these new and important protocols. If team members feel that an individual requires further individualized support with understanding these components, please reach out to Josh Simmons or Matt Folta.

Teaching Methods:

Social distancing: Staff should let the individuals know that a certain distance should be maintained when around others in the community and when at home. Staff should teach and discuss “safe” people the individual can be near, include family members, staff and housemates. Staff should emphasize the difference between family and people outside the home and encourage them to keep their circle small.

Hand Hygiene: Staff should inform individuals about the importance of washing hands or using hand sanitizer. Staff should teach and assist with hand hygiene before leaving the home and when returning to the home. Staff should teach and explain that keeping their hands clean will prevent them from getting sick. Staff should emphasize that hands are often dirty, and dirty hands make you sick. Staff should use individual-specific methods to ensure the individual is able to independently wash their hands or can independently use hand sanitizer. Staff should practice these methods with the residents leading up to their visit or community integration.

Masks: Staff should let individuals know that they should wear their masks at all times outside their home. Staff should teach and explain that it keeps them safe from germs and that it will help prevent them from getting sick. Staff should remind individuals that keeping personal space and distance from others is the best way to keep them from getting sick. Disposable masks should be thrown away at the end of each day.

Below you will see specific responses staff can utilize with the residents when surrounding home visit and community integration safety measures.

Universal Responses:

- **Social distancing**
 - “We need to stay away from strangers to be safe”
 - “Strangers shouldn’t be in our personal space”
- **Washing Hands**
 - “We wash our hands so we don’t get sick”
 - “Dirty hands make us sick”
- **Masks**
 - “We wear our masks to prevent us from getting sick”

Protect yourself from COVID-19 and stop the spread of germs.



Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water **for at least 20 seconds**, especially before eating.



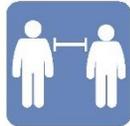
Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home if you are sick.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Stay home as much as possible. **Everyone** – even young people and those who feel well.



If you must go out, **stay at least 6 feet away** from others.



You must wear a face mask or face covering in public when social distancing (staying 6 feet apart) is not possible, especially on public transport, in stores and on crowded sidewalks.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.
www.ny.gov/coronavirus