



May 15, 2020

Dear Pathfinder Families,

Day 5, Week: Today also marks Day One, Phase One of *NY Forward*, Governor Cuomo's reopening plan for New York. As you might imagine, Phase One prioritizes businesses considered to have greater economic impact and inherently low risks of infections for the workers and customers. Internally, Pathfinder Senior Leadership is creating its own *Pathfinder Playbook*, which will be our guide to reopening our beloved Village. One thing we have learned is that it will be harder to reopen the Village than it was to close! It's been an education within itself understanding every detail that makes Pathfinder the vibrant community that it is. I'm very proud of what we have and very eager to put COVID-19 behind us...safely. More on that later.

Bassett Healthcare reports they have increased testing available to the public and they are also increasing their preparedness for the seasonal increase with summer visitors. While most of the big events that draw people to the area have been canceled, our region is still home to many summer residents. For normal hospital operation, Bassett has adjusted scheduling so patients will have no waiting room time prior to an appointment, and they have also determined that one-third of appointments scheduled can be held via telehealth.

Mileage Club resumed this week at Pathfinder! A campus-wide favorite activity, slightly modified to meet our social-distancing protocols, residents were out and about getting exercise and enjoying life! With 300 acres to work with we were able to set up a plan that includes three separate walking locations, house-by-house participation, and volunteer efforts by so many staff from different departments. It was a GREAT afternoon!

Speaking of Mileage Club and exercise, Virtual Splash Path is coming! Join us on May 30th wherever you are...your race, your pace, your place! Our plan is to have our regular Splash Path, in person, later in the fall (details TBD). Letters were sent to all families last week about the new virtual format. Please let us know if you did not receive a letter and sign up here so we can keep in touch. We'll send you healthy tips and exercise plans throughout the summer months! <https://raceroster.com/events/2020/31323/virtual-splash-path-2020>

As mentioned above, the next two weeks will focus on internal Senior Leadership meetings to develop a comprehensive *Pathfinder Playbook* operating manual to move us successfully through COVID-19, so we can come out strong on the other side. In addition to re-uniting families, items of focus include resuming: Adult Day Services Program (community day services and resident based services), Admissions (two on stand-by and

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general inquiries, tours, etc.), Enrichment Programs (the heartbeat of campus life, including, art classes, computer classes, karaoke, Zumba, etc.), in-person medical appointments, Pathfinder School, Otsego Academy, the Café, Inn and Produce Market, and finally, moving our remote employees back to campus.

While Pathfinder Village is a small organization, it is a very complex human services agency in that we offer so many different programs and businesses all intersecting in one location. Lots of moving parts!

Upcoming planning meetings will include input from not only our Senior Leaders, but also other valued employees, our healthcare and business partners, county government officials, board members and family members. Early thinking is to have four phases of opening the campus with each phase building on the success of the prior phase. It will be specific in nature but will have the flexibility to place any activity on-hold if need be. Our priorities are to re-engage individuals that have been without services for nine weeks, expand resident programming, and reunite families. With detailed metrics and guidance, we hope to move through each phase over the spring and summer months, getting us into full operation (with modifications) by fall 2020. We hope to have a draft Playbook to present to the Board of Directors at our June 3rd meeting.

After nine weeks of watching the virus take over the country and living in isolation, it can be difficult to consider a post COVID life. I think we all know that lifestyles will be different, at least for the foreseeable future and this will be the same for Pathfinder Village. I have had a front row seat to witnessing many silver linings at Pathfinder during this crisis. I hope to bring those forward as we reimagine Pathfinder Village. Your continued kindness, patience and prayers need to continue as we move forward; you are our source of inspiration and strength.

In closing, I'm sharing a feature image from this year's Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress' Conference brochure. A very popular event, Pathfinder is always in attendance and Chief Program Officer Kelly Meyers has made many valuable Village connections there. Held virtually this year, it was nice to see Pathfinder present by way of the brochure, but it's definitely one more in-person event we are looking forward to next year!



Thank you again for all you do. We are looking forward to the weeks ahead and producing a valuable tool to guide us safely into the future. Be well.

Best,

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