



June 12, 2020

Dear Pathfinder Families,

We have surpassed the 3-month mark of living in isolation at Pathfinder Village. Honestly, at the onset of COVID 19, I thought we would be dealing with this for about a month, not indefinitely! Despite of the gravity of the pandemic, Pathfinder has fared well by keeping our residents and staff healthy while being creative in how we support people. I continue to be very proud of our COVID-free Pathfinder.

Last week, I shared with the management team that June and July are going to be like the Olympic decathlon event. To add to that, late Friday night Governor Cuomo ordered that approved special education programs/schools reopen for their summer sessions. This was quite unexpected and not on our re-open list this summer. Maura Iorio and her team are now sprinting for reopening on Monday, July 6th for Pathfinder School's summer session! Unfortunately, once again, this postpones our school renovation project that was scheduled to begin that same week.

Below is an update of all our re-opening efforts:

- **In-Person medical appointments:** The Nursing Department has begun scheduling in-person appointments based on a priority system they developed last month. We received word last week that dental services have resumed and nursing has scheduled several appointments based on need. You received a copy of our in-person medical appointment protocol last week. If you have any concerns about your family member attending in-person appointments, please contact your nurse case manager.
- **Remote workers return to campus:** On June 15th we welcome back many remote professional and office workers to Pathfinder on a part-time basis. We will evaluate for two weeks and then decide on next steps. Getting workers back to the Village is essential...we are not only a community of residents and students, but we are a community of professionals and need to be together to serve our people best.
- **Produce Market:** The produce market opens to the public on Thursday, June 18th, with extended hours; 10-3:30. The Day Service Department has done a spectacular job adapting the market to meet COVID-19 requirements. The market will offer curbside ordering and extended pantry and food items for sale. We hope to have resident workers return to the market in July.
- **Admissions:** We are planning July several admissions and look forward to resuming the cycle of life that makes our Village so vibrant. Kelly Meyers is managing this effort with tremendous detail and care.

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- **Pathfinder School:** The Governor's Executive Order 202.4 mandates special education programs/schools to open July 6th. Maura Iorio and her team are working hard to put the summer program together.
- **Adult Day Services:** Our Adult Day service program remains suspended and we continue to offer programming through each home and remotely to community families. Starting June 22nd, ADS will offer simulated café hours and market shopping for residents. The goal of this is to help our residents adapt to a COVID community. We have developed a training curriculum to assist residents in wearing masks and practicing physical distancing. Residents will have the opportunity to go to The Commons and have a café hour and shop in our simulated market while practicing COVID-19 community skills that are necessary to keep them safe. I think residents will enjoy these additional activities while learning how to engage a COVID community. KUDOS to ADS staff for putting this program together in short order. I believe full day programming will resume at some point during NY Forward Phase IV.
- **The Café/Bakery** remains closed to the public and Pathfinder. We plan to look at re-opening in late July or early August. The café is so small we won't be able to comply with the Governor's Order for interior seating. If you have visited our café over the past 3 years, it is like Starbucks or taking the subway in NYC. It's a busy and bustling place, especially early mornings. The best option going forward is to open the café for outside seating. The patio can accommodate about 12 patrons while complying with the Executive Order. We need more time to design a plan that works well for our customers and keeps the Village safe.
- **Family Visitations:** We remain in a NO VISITATION status as ordered by OPWDD, but want to begin planning for visits, hopefully in July. We have enclosed a copy of our family visitation protocol and [a survey for you to complete](#) and **return by the June 19th**. For me, this is a top priority activity. We have gone too long separating families. I believe our protocol will safely and successfully reunite families. While our pre-screening policy might seem extensive and restrictive, it allows you to have a meaningful, close-contact visit with your loved one; you can be inside, take campus walks and be on campus for up to 24 hours. The alternative would be a less extensive and restrictive pre-screening process, but a no-contact, staff monitored, 30-minute visit, that would be held outside in a designated location. As I think about this alternative, a common statement from our COVID daily meetings comes to mind, "everything is fine until it's not fine." This statement has helped us make many decisions over the past 13 weeks, as it did this morning, and simply stated, I am just not ready to commit to the less extensive and restrictive option until I know everything is fine and will stay fine. Thank you for your patience with this, I know it has taken an emotional toll on everyone. If you have questions, please let me know either through the attached survey or feel free to contact me directly.

This region of NY State remains relatively safe with little incidence of COVID cases...although this week there was a confirmed COVID case at a local nursing home. Cooperstown remains somewhat of a ghost town and discussions this week with The Otesaga Hotel and Leatherstocking Golf Course reflect this as well. They are planning for minimal operations through the summer and fall. This may impact our fall fundraising tournaments. A final decision will be made in early July.

A stretch of good weather has brightened things up here—Mileage Club is active and the “Informal” Saturday afternoon was a huge success! The residential green was filled with residents and staff dancing and enjoying live music. I felt like we had our Village back for a few hours. KUDOS to Paula Schaeffer and her staff for adapting once again. Please take a look at the [attached photo collage](#)...lots of smiles and lots of air guitars! Please be sure to check out the full album of photos on our Facebook page.

Stay well.

Be Healthy, Be Kind, Be Patient.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul C. Landers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being the most prominent.

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