



June 5, 2020

Dear Pathfinder Families,

Week 12, Day 5: Pathfinder remains COVID-19 free and the Forward NY reopening guidelines continue to move forward. Mohawk Valley (Pathfinder's designated economic region) is entering week 2 of Phase II.

I am pleased to share with you that our Board of Directors approved the [Pathfinder Playbook](#) at Wednesday's Board Meeting. [This link opens](#) the proposed re-opening timeline and protocols specific to Phase II for all June re-opening activities at Pathfinder. As you know, the playbook was designed to follow NY State's re-opening plan starting with low risk activities, and then moving toward higher risk activities. This process is fluid and it is likely that there will be many changes throughout the process. At the end of the day, our priorities are to meet the needs of our residents first, those living on our campus and those waiting to re-engage with Pathfinder Village Services, and then finally to begin family reunions, which I know are VERY important to many of you.

Next week, we plan to send you a survey about family visitations at the Village. We are committed to making family visits happen and we want them to be meaningful; we feel your input and comments will help us make the correct decisions and that ultimately the visits will be time well-spent with you and your loved one. The survey will be included in next week's family email and we look forward to hearing from you.

As you know, we had to cancel and suspend many of our programs resulting in significant reductions in revenue. Reducing expenses was nearly impossible because we had to maintain staffing levels in response to COVID 19 and comply with our PPP loan. In addition, OPWDD recently announced that they are planning a series of funding reductions for residential programs. Two residential payment categories will be reduced by 50%, Retainer Days and Therapeutic Days. Let me explain what these two items are:

- Retainer days: These are days when an individual is out of their residence hospitalized or in rehab. The State pays providers for those days under the retainer payment.
- Therapeutic days: These are days when an individual is out of their residence visiting family or taking vacations. The State pays providers for those days under the therapeutic payment.

To further explain, in 2019, Pathfinder residents living in IRAs spent considerable time visiting families, and in and out of hospitals. Based on 2019 activity, the fiscal impact to Pathfinder Village for the remainder of 2020

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is approximately \$100,000.00. We may be asking IRA families to write letters to the Governor and State officials to voice your concerns over these funding cuts. They go at the core of individuals' quality-of-life and the preservation of families. More information will come on this next week.

I am sharing School Director Maura Iorio's [Wellness Wednesday](#) video about gratitude journaling. Gratitude journaling has gained a lot of attention in the field of positive psychology and has been a popular activity while people have been at home over the past three months. Enjoy her short video...Maura certainly has been a ray of sunshine with her weekly videos helping us all stay active, positive and grateful for what we have.

- Wellness Wednesday, Gratitude Journaling: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-U4maQ81Qc&t=5s>

The annual resident formal has been transformed this year! We are so grateful to Paula Schaeffer and the Enrichment Department for thinking outside the box so that we can go forward with this very popular resident event. Renamed the "Informal" this year, we are once again taking advantage of our vast outdoor space. The Informal will be held Saturday afternoon, outside, utilizing the entire residential quad area. We have secured a band to perform from the back patio of the Meeting House, and each house on-and-off campus will have designated (safely distanced) space to dance, laugh and have fun on the lawn. Lori Grace will be on hand taking pictures which we will share next week! The weather forecast is for a clear and mild afternoon.

Virtual Splash Path was a success! Thank you to the many who participated virtually and sent along pictures. The residents had a blast! Starting at 9 a.m. and going until 3 p.m., each house had a designated time and space to walk, run or just enjoy being outside. It is rumored that Hudson House folks were up and ready to go at 6:30. When the Development Team arrived to take pictures at 8:45, Summit House had already started as well! The Development Team took some great pictures; hopefully you were able to check them out on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Finally, I am attaching results from a [COVID-19 employee survey](#) taken recently. I mentioned this survey in May while we were still gathering results. I'm thrilled to report that we had a 74% response rate—164 out of 232 employees completed the survey. As you will see the results were positive across the board. I can't say enough about how well our staff has responded to our new COVID lifestyle and the protocols that have been placed upon them.

That's it for now. As the State, and our Region, move through the opening phases, it is clear the June will be a busy month for everyone. I am anticipating a lot of "one step forward, two steps back" to get to the finish line; I also feel the Village has been diligent in anticipating protocols and potential trip wires and we are well positioned to move forward without significant challenges.

As always, thank you for your continued support! Be Healthy, Be Kind, Be Patient.



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