

June 4, 2020

Dear Green Chimneys Families,

As week 12 of quarantine comes to a close, we are reaching out to update you on the status of our residential programming and visitation policies. Although our school remains closed, and instruction will continue remotely through the summer, we are planning a slow reopening of our residential program this summer. Beginning the week of July 6th, we will be scheduling return dates for all residents who remain at home. Over the course of four weeks, we will have several return dates weekly, assigned by dorm. We will follow current practices for returns, which include:

- A pre-screening by phone to occur within 24 hours prior to your child's planned return. Should your child have COVID-19 symptoms, fever, or possible exposure, they will be prohibited from returning to campus.
- Once you arrive on campus, your child will have an in-person screening with a Health Center nurse. This screening will include both a COVID nasal swab test, and a rapid antibody test. You will be required to wait the 10 minutes for rapid test results.
- Should your child have a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms, or a positive result on the rapid test, they will be prohibited from returning to campus. If the rapid test is negative, your child will be admitted to campus.
- Since the plan is to return residents of a particular dorm on the same day, your child will be kept isolated with their dorm until test results return (usually within 3-5 days). This just means the dorm will do all activities without any mingling with other kids or staff for that period of time. It does not mean that they will be limited to the dorm space.

We understand you may feel hesitant to have your child return to a congregate care setting in light of the three positive cases recently detected in our children on campus, and continued concern about the spread of infection. We are taking every precaution to keep our campus, and your children, safe. These children have now fully recovered and new protocols are in place to minimize the spread of any future infection. Though we highly encourage your child's return, we also understand any reticence, and will continue to remotely support those families to collaborate on a mutually agreeable return date and process.

For those families who believe their child needs to return sooner than July, due to safety concerns in the home, please continue to communicate with your child's therapist. We are still scheduling limited return dates in the next few weeks.

In addition, we will be reopening visitation. In order to stay compliant with federal and state recommendations, and to continue to minimize the risk of exposure for our children and staff on campus, this will understandably look different from what it did pre-Coronavirus. Here is our current plan to reopen visitation:

- For those residents currently on the campus, we will have scheduled on-grounds visits from June 13-21. Only a limited number of families will be permitted to visit on any given visiting day, during a scheduled 2-hour time slot. Visit locations will also be assigned in order to allow for appropriate social distancing.

- We will have several home visits scheduled over the summer, which will consist of the already scheduled Recess breaks at the end of June through beginning of July, and the end of August, as well as one extended weekend at the end of July. Return protocol will include Health Center screening, testing, and a period of dorm quarantine while awaiting test results, as outlined above.
- For the remaining summer weeks, we will schedule on-campus visits on Wednesdays and alternating Saturdays and Sundays. Visit protocol will look the same as mentioned above.
- A calendar with summer visitation schedule is attached.
- We will be unable to provide our courtesy transportation for visits at this time. Should lack of transportation be a barrier to visitation, please discuss with your child's therapist.

We know that going from having your child home every day, or every weekend prior to the start of the pandemic, to only having a limited number of visits over the course of a two-month period, is certainly not ideal. It, in fact, flies in the face of our efforts to increase face-to-face contact for our residents and their families. Once we can safely increase visits home, and reincorporate our transportation, we absolutely plan to do so. For now, we are offering what we can safely manage, and what will surely keep risk of the spread of infection low. We will continue to facilitate as much remote contact with you and your child as possible, including phone calls, virtual visits, and zoom family sessions.

Since so much of this new protocol requires precise planning and scheduling, we are asking that you speak to your child's therapist regarding your thoughts about the reopening and visit schedule. We will need to know if you plan to return your child on the planned date for their dorm's return, if you believe your child needs to be returned sooner, or if you do not intend to return your child at this time. All visits will also need to be communicated with your child's therapist, and will be scheduled in the open slots on a first come, first served basis.

We sincerely appreciate your patience and collaboration as we all navigate through this challenging time. We continue to base our procedures on Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control guidelines. As we learn more about this virus, we will continue to modify our efforts to try to maximize family contact while continuing to keep our campus safe.

We are here to support you. If you have any additional concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly at 914-357-1334 or eplacke@greenchimneys.org, or the following individuals:

- Lauren Bennett, Deputy Director: 914-414-3007 or lbennett@greenchimneys.org
- Steve Klee, Associate Executive Director, Clinical and Medical Services: 845-216-5361 or sklee@greenchimneys.org
- Kristin Licardi, Director of Social Services: 845-260-3676 or klicardi@greenchimneys.org
- Sharon Gilchrest, Director of Residential Life: 845-519-5601 or sgilchrest@greenchimneys.org

Stay safe and well,



Edward Placke
Executive Director