

Attendance at Day Programs and Community Outings During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Day programs and community outings are an important part of the supports we provide. As each state and local community revisits their stay-at-home requirements, we will apply these guidelines in deciding the appropriate time for our individuals to attend day programs, appointments and restart community outings.

These guidelines are for individuals participating in community outings or attending day programs not operated by the company.

Ensure that transportation and cleaning transport vehicles guidelines are followed.

Attendance at Day Programs or Participating in Community Outings

Generally speaking, if the local schools, non-essential businesses and restaurants are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, day programs should also be closed, and community outings should be suspended. If non-essential businesses and schools are open, the following guidelines should be considered when deciding if an individual should participate in community outings or attend a day program:

- For day programs not operated by the company, obtain a copy of the infection control policies and ensure that:
 - The program site is cleaned and disinfected at least once per day (and as needed throughout the day)
 - Individuals who attend are screened prior to entering
 - Team members at the program are screened at the start of their shift, and wear appropriate PPE
 - Practice healthy hygiene and infection control practices (e.g., handwashing, not touching the face, etc.)
 - Physical distancing practices are implemented to increase the physical space between individuals and to limit interactions in large group settings
 - Please feel free to provide education and share infection control resources from REACH to our day program partners
- No individual who is ill or under quarantine should participate in community outings or attend day programs.
- Individuals attending day programs/community outings should be encouraged to vaccinate and screened twice each day for COVID-19 symptoms (prior to leaving the home and upon return to the home). Individuals will be kept at home if:
 - Temp \geq 100.0

OR

- Any one of the following:
 - ✦ Muscle aches

- ✦ Chills
- ✦ Headache
- ✦ New loss of taste or smell
- ✦ Respiratory symptoms including:
 - ✦ Shortness of breath
 - ✦ Sore throat
 - ✦ New or changed cough (not otherwise associated with a known chronic condition like smoking or allergies)

See also: Visitor Screening Tool and Isolation Procedure.

- Individuals should wear surgical masks if tolerated and as required by state or local officials:
 - During transport
 - As possible during the time spent in the community or at the day program ○ Always if required by state/local requirements
 - ✦ Individuals unable or unwilling to wear a mask will be kept at home until the requirement is no longer in place.
- Individuals at high risk should not attend day programs or community outings unless vaccinated. According to the CDC, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include unvaccinated:
 - People 65 years of age or older
 - People of all ages with chronic medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled such as:
 - ✦ Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - ✦ Serious heart conditions such as heart failure
 - ✦ Immunocompromised (including cancer treatments, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications)
 - ✦ Severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
 - ✦ Diabetes
 - ✦ Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
 - ✦ Liver disease

For those individuals not attending day programs or participating in community outings, please continue to source alternative ways for them to remain engaged. Please reference the isolation activity suggestions.

Family Visits and Outings

As stay-at-home orders are rolled back, some of our individuals and their families will want to again enjoy outings and overnight visits. Please ensure the following:

- An IDT meeting is held to review requests for family outings against any noted safety issues taking into account all of the above requirements.

- Encourage the individuals and their families to be vaccinated
- Involve the client's Physician and obtain recommendations if the client is considered high risk based on condition and co-morbidities/diagnosis.
- The individual will be screened prior to leaving and upon return to the home. The individual and their family/guardian will be encouraged to wear a mask and be kept at home should they exhibit any symptoms per the screening.
- Educate family members/guardians (using the COVID-19 Family Resource Packet) and encourage them to follow guidelines including infection control, handwashing, cleaning and disinfection, social distancing, the use of masks and transportation (including cleaning and disinfecting vehicles).
- If supplies permit, provide the family with surgical masks.
- Provide and review the COVID-19 Family Packet with the family/guardian to include the following. Please document the discussion and file in the record.
 - Covid-19 Symptoms
 - Guidance for Extended Families living in the same household
 - What to do if you're sick
 - Cleaning and disinfection guidelines
 - Handwashing flyer
 - Persons supported training
 - Slow the spread
 - Screening tool
- Large gatherings should be avoided (e.g., crowded public spaces, parties, movies, etc).
- If the visit is planned for multiple days, the individual should be screened every day and family members/guardians in the home as well as visitors should also screen.
- Discuss the plan should individual or family/guardian should become ill or be exposed to someone infected with COVID-19 during the visit:
 - If possible, keep the individual at home for the duration of illness (following quarantine/isolation guidelines).
 - If not possible, the family should phone ahead before returning the individual to the home so quarantine procedures can be put into place.