

Family Center for Autism (FCA) REOPENING, FALL 2020

The following is a summary of the plan for the FCA center's reopening this Fall. The reopening of the center can be successfully achieved by putting protocols in place to keep participants and staff safe that follow the plans and guidelines, as set forth by New York State.

Intensive mitigation strategies to contain and prevent the spread of the virus will be supported through the implementation of specific training, monitoring, cleaning, and containment policies.

In anticipation of the reopening of classes at the FCA on September 26, 2020, the guidance and considerations outlined in this document are grounded in five guiding principles:

1. Safeguarding the health & safety of participants and staff; with strategic monitoring and disinfecting schedules in compliance with the CDC.
2. Fostering strong two-way communication with families, staff and participants.
3. Limiting the number of participants attending classes and program at one time.
4. Monitoring attendance and, when necessary, potentially cancelling classes to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread.
5. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the participants, families and communities who are emerging from this historic disruption.

Main Operational Considerations:



Cohorts: Placing participants in cohorts shall be strongly encouraged for children under 8, and encouraged where feasible for ages 14 and up.



Payment, Refund and Cancellation Policies: In the unfortunate event the program closes due to COVID-19 concerns or changes to the NYS model, all payments made will be prorated and reimbursed to you. If participants/family chooses to cancel for any reason, monies will not be reimbursed.



Activities: All participants shall receive their own materials to reduce the number of items touched.



Arrivals and Departures: All participants shall arrive and enter program through the main entrance. Temperatures shall be taken for all participants. If a person has a temperature of 100° F, they will not be able to enter the program. Prior to entry, all participants shall be asked if they are experiencing cough, fever, shortness of breath (SOB) and if they have had contact with the COVID virus. Any answer other than "no" will prohibit a participant from joining the program.



Social Distancing and Facilities: Building space will be reviewed and reconfigured to maximize social distancing, consistent with public health guidelines in place at that time. Class size will be limited to meet recommended capacity limitations. The sensory gym and café area shall be closed.



Face Coverings: All staff will be expected to wear a protective face covering or face mask that completely covers the nose and mouth when inside the building. All participants shall be encouraged to wear face coverings, if tolerable.



Health and Safety: All high contact areas and bathrooms shall be cleaned throughout the day.



Training: All staff shall be trained on safety precautions regarding COVID-19, universal precautions, cross contamination and infections control.



Visitors: Non-essential staff, visitors and family members will not be able to enter the building due to social distancing and safety protocols.

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Signature
