



**PROSPECTUS BERCO**

*Making a Difference for People with Disabilities*

## **COVID-19 Update for Day Services Programs** **4/6/2021**

With the roll out of the vaccination program, Prospectus Berco Day Services Programs began a gradual reopening of services; these services include our Adult Training and Vocational Programs.

At this time, Berks County has a “Substantial” Positive COVID-19 Rate (PCR) rate. At this time, Prospectus Berco is not going to close or suspend Day Services Programs but will continue to monitor the situation closely.

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) advises Prospectus Berco to inform program participants, family members and guardians that:

- The Department recommends that CPS Programs temporarily cease operations when there is a “Substantial” Level of Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the county where the CPS Program is located,
- Berks County has a Substantial Level of Community Transmission, and
- Prospectus Berco has elected to remain open with additional precautions in place.

It is important that everyone understand what the PCR Rate means so individuals can make the best decisions for themselves and individuals in your care. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania uses the PCR rate to help residents of the Commonwealth gauge the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the communities where people live and work. The Department of Human Services advises that caution should be taken when the PCR Rate is over 10% for an extended period.

There are many factors to take into consideration in determining risks of exposure. For example, the number of people in an area who have been vaccinated, your personal wearing appropriate PPE, and social distancing are just a few protective measures that people should be aware of to determine their vulnerability to exposure.

**Since Prospectus Berco has implemented several mitigating protocols for its daily operations, we are going to continue to offer services at its facility-base locations at William Lane and Kutztown Road.** We have taken several measures to reduce the risk of exposure for the virus and will continue to abide by strict mitigating protocols in the delivery of

services. Some of these practices include daily health screenings, temperature checks, the use of KN95 masks or double masking, contained areas, social distancing, and the staggering of breaks and lunches. In addition, air flow and purifying systems have been installed at both William Lane and Kutztown Road locations and sanitizing machines have been purchased to disinfect areas on a regular basis.

Furthermore, Prospectus Berco implemented a vaccination program in the beginning of the year with more than 67% of its employees being fully vaccinated to protect themselves and others from the virus. Likewise, the majority of Program Participants who attend Day Services Programs have also been vaccinated. However, there remains a percentage of employees and consumers who are not vaccinated. We understand the decision to vaccinate is a personal one and many individuals may have underlying health conditions that prevent them from getting the vaccine. While we are not mandating that program participants be vaccinated to receive day services supports, we will only be able to provide facility-based services to individuals who have completed their COVID-19 vaccination. Others who may be eligible to receive 1:1 CPS will be contacted by a day services manager.

While we have taken several precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we cannot guarantee that no one will contract the virus. **If you, or an individual in your care, is unvaccinated or considered high risk, you may elect not to receive day services supports at this time.** Please contact Prospectus Berco to determine how you can receive 1:1 Community Participation and Support Services.

Prospectus Berco will continue to monitor the PCR Rate closely and will keep program participants apprised of the situation. The safety and wellbeing of program participants is our greatest concern. Remaining open is decision that is based on the overall health of our consumers, including the social and emotional needs of program participants.

Questions regarding this notice can be addressed to Jonathan Colon, Operations Administrator at 610.372.4637, ext. 121.

### **Notice March 15, 2021**

With the roll out of the vaccination program, and low Positive COVID Rate (PCR) Prospectus Berco Day Services Programs began a gradual reopening of services; these services include our Adult Training and Vocational Programs.

As in last summer, program enrollment will be limited to no more than 25-30% capacity, in the first several weeks of the resumption of services. Individuals who were enrolled over the summer and fall will be reoriented into the Vocational and Adult Training Programs first and then we will gradually expand enrollment as the situation stabilizes and we are permitted to increase our capacity safely. The management team is in the process of contacting participants to bring back this spring.

For the safety of everyone, individuals who are considered high risk because of age, health conditions, or those who need more personal care assistance with activities of daily living, will not be permitted to return until the later. As a reminder, Prospectus Berco provides 1:1 Community Participation and Support Service for those who qualify. We are encouraging individuals, guardians, and family members to discuss their status by calling their Supports Coordinator to determine their availability of services. Likewise, if you are no longer interested in

receiving services by Prospectus Berco please contact your Supports Coordinator and let them know.

#### FACILITY BASED PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

Families or other caregivers will need to provide transportation to and from the Day Program. We regret that the use of public transportation to attend Day Services Programs is prohibited until further notice.

Participants who are not considered high risk will also have to:

- comply with health screening and temperature checks prior to entering the program
- wear a KN95 mask or double mask
- individuals must be able to remove and apply their mask independently
- practice social distancing and follow safety guidelines with minimal prompts
- eat lunch at designated shifts

For the safety of our program participants, Prospectus Berco has established protocols for sanitizing work areas and components, traffic flow patterns, and extended the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to mitigate exposure. Prospectus Berco completed a voluntary vaccination program for its employees with most of its employees opting into the program. At the present time, we are not requiring program participants to be vaccinated to attend programs; however, we do ask that individuals who elect to be vaccinated share proof of COVID-19 Vaccination when they have completed the process.

We are excited about being able to reopen but are also extremely cautious about ensuring the safety of everyone. As conditions stabilize, we will continue to bring more participants back as permitted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you for entrusting your loved one with Prospectus Berco,

Jody Wagner,  
Executive Director /CEO