



MEMO TO: Program Participants, Family Members, Guardians, and Individuals Interested in Day Services with Prospectus Berco

FROM: Jonathan Colon, Operations Administrator

RE: **COVID-19 UPDATE DAY SERVICES PROGRAMS**

DATE: 5-6-2021

With the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination program, Prospectus Berco Day Services Programs has begun a gradual reopening of Day Services offerings; these services include our Adult Training and Vocational Programs.

Though Berks County has occasionally been placed in the “Substantial” risk for community transmission category (based on PCR positivity rate of 10% or greater), Prospectus Berco has elected to continue to provide Day Services to our active program participants, based on several factors. The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) advises organizations, such as Prospectus Berco, to inform program participants, family members and guardians that:

***ODP recommends that Community Participation Supports (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, and Prospectus Berco has elected to remain open with additional precautions in place when the PCR positivity rate is at 10% or greater.***

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 evaluate 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 (in accordance with local and federal guidelines), services will be continued to be offered at its facility-based locations at William Lane and Kutztown Road.

The protocols include daily phone calls and health screenings prior to arriving at the facility, 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 and taking into consideration our program participants' and staff's wellbeing, all Day Services staff have been vaccinated. At the same time, the majority of Program Participants who attend Day Services Programs have also been vaccinated. However, there is still a small percentage of consumers who are not vaccinated. We understand the decision to vaccinate is a personal one and 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 the Organization has taken several precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, it cannot be guaranteed 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 informed 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.



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