



August 7, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Six months into this pandemic, we are still faced with considerable uncertainty. The one constant that provides direction and clarity for NEV since COVID-19 first threatened our community is our evolved mission to keep the people we serve as safe as is humanly possible. Safety is the litmus test for all our decisions.

As of this writing we understand that only 25 of the 178 day habilitation programs that operate in Massachusetts have opened in some capacity. We are monitoring their progress and the challenges they are encountering. Our team has been meeting regularly to discuss what reopening might look like for NEV given that we are working under the confines of social distancing requirements. This will initially limit the number of individuals we can support on any given day, but we will work within those guidelines to serve as many people as we can, as safely as we can. The feasibility of a potential end of August partial reopening is being carefully considered, but that is not definite and is subject to change. One thing I do know for certain, we will not fully reopen unless and until we're sure our plan protects all the individuals we support.

We will continue to monitor all public health advisories and MassHealth and DDS communications and update you as appropriate. Our day program directors, Amy Downing (Day Habilitation) and Akari Hayashi (Employment and CBDS), are always available to answer any questions you may have or address any concerns. I have included their contact information below.

- [Amy Downing](#), Director of Day Habilitation
Email: adowning@newenglandvillage.org
Phone: 781-422-3474 ext. 1105
- [Akari Hayashi](#), Director of Day Services
Email: ahayashi@newenglandvillage.org
Phone: 781-293-5461 ext. 134

Thank you all for your continued support. As we navigate these uncharted waters together, I am confident that we will emerge from this situation an even stronger community.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MAR', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael A. Rodrigues
President and CEO
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