



July 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians;

Enclosed please find a form that Mass Health has asked us to distribute. The form is meant to guide you through assessing the risks and benefits of having your loved one return to day programming in a congregate setting such as Venture's day habilitation programs.

Some of you have participated in a survey to gauge your comfort level with having your loved one return to these services, detailing the types of programming modifications we would need to make to assure health and safety. Under current Mass Health regulations, only 25% of the people that Venture supports in its day programs will be allowed to receive services in our facilities in Leominster, Sturbridge, and Uxbridge. These numbers are determined by the square footage required to maintain adequate social distance between the people who receive supports and the staff who provide those supports.

Because of this, Venture will initially be contacting the families and guardians of people who live in their family homes or who are supported in Shared Living models via telephone call. During this phone call, Venture staff will review the document and have a discussion with family members about whether their loved one should return to services in our facility.

People who live in a group home run by Venture or another residential vendor will continue to have the opportunity to participate in a variety of remote activities while getting their typical care and supervision in their home. We are exploring methods of also conducting some small group sessions in our programs so that people may have the opportunity to socialize with friends they don't live with. We will need to refine these procedures to assure we can protect people's health through mask wearing and social distancing.

Once restrictions have been lifted further, Mass Health may allow more people to attend day program in person. We will assess each individual for their appropriateness to receive services in a larger congregate setting. These decisions will be made with input from the person's family and guardians, based on health and the individual's ability to practice social distancing. Venture staff will call each person's family in advance of returning to the program to reach consensus on how to proceed.

Thank you for your continued patience and support while we work through the challenges of reopening our day services. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,



Pam Sampson  
Chief Program Officer