

ACS Corona Virus Preparedness Plan – March 23rd, 2020 : 8:30pm

Dear ACS parents, families, and partnering providers,

All our Day Programs remain open. We continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation as it evolves and will be providing updates on a regular basis. If you or someone you know is not receiving our emails who should, please contact the office so we can add it to our list. We are also posting these notices to our website at <https://www.abilitychoice.org> . Our previous messages are posted there in case you missed them.

Our Industry Status in relation to various orders

Generally, our human service industry is considered part of the “essential workforce.” This includes all staff including admin staff. In most shelter in place orders, essential travel (which may include short trips to trail heads for exercise, grocery store, etc.) is allowed along with travel for the essential workforce.

Day Program Logistics

Our day programs can operate with 75% attendance and still maintain the 10-person group recommendation with social distancing. Even in jurisdictions where they are instituting 50% reduction in the workforce, this generally doesn't apply to the “essential workforce” additionally some have asked for 50% occupancy for non-essential worksites, which again we are below that even at the 75% of normal attendance. (Total Licensed capacity is 156 for SSL, 109 for Draper and 31 for Tooele)

Operational Changes

As mentioned before, at ACS, our emphasis is on keeping our participants and day services hubs healthy and planning for any potential increases of COVID-19 cases in the future.

We have already temporarily adjusted our practices to minimize the impact to our participants, staff and the community. This includes:

- Focusing on center-based activities
 - Maintaining where practicable three-foot separation between our participants
 - Carefully considering activities with direct contact
 - Keeping group sizes to less than 10 people including staff: our groups are separated with significant spacing or in separate rooms generally around six participants and two staff
- Delaying the face-to-face portion of work assessments and job development:
 - We are in the process of setting up compliant systems including AnyMeeting and Telehealth
 - These remote systems require that all parties are using both voice and video in order to provide services in this manner
- Increasing the frequency and scope of cleaning and disinfecting common touch surfaces including our vans.
- All personnel, participants and visitors are subject to screening per Health Department recommendations
- Continually reviewing treatment programs and adjusting based on available staffing and critical supplies

Participant's and Team Choices (from DSPD)

- For the time being, PCSP meetings will need to be held via a secure video conferencing system. We are in the process of setting up Telehealth with the DOH but can also use our AnyMeeting system as it is HIPAA compliant. These should be available next week, please contact the office for more information if you have a meeting coming up you would like to schedule with one of these services.
- We may be able to provide some check-in type services for our Supported Living and Supported Employment participants using these systems as well in the short term. Stay tuned.
- DSPD has made it clear that it is up to each participant and/or Team to make decisions on a case by case basis as to whether to come to the Day Program or participate in other services:

All staff, participants visitors to any of our programs and people receiving home-based services in homes are subject to additional screening if they are exhibiting symptoms of the COVID-19 virus which include: dry coughing, compromised respiration/difficulty breathing and fever. Anyone arriving at one of our settings who is exhibiting these symptoms is subject to being asked to return home, or in the case of home settings staff may cancel the shift when practicable.

Our intent is to continue providing services as long as it is practicable, safe and have available staff and critical supplies to do so.

You can visit the following websites for more information about COVID-19:

- State of Utah website: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/> (links on this page for the test assessment tool)
- Salt Lake County Health Department website: <https://slco.org/health/COVID-19/>
- Centers for Disease Control website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

We will continue to update our partners periodically utilizing our main website at:

<https://www.abilitychoice.org>

Sincerely,

Dan Fazzini,
Executive Director