



Dear UCP Seguin Staff, Foster Parents, Families, and Friends,

We are just over a year into a worldwide pandemic. Last year at this time, we had imagined and hoped that the pandemic would only last for a couple of weeks. Instead, it has been a long twelve months of disruption and change. But in the face of the many challenges we have all experienced, we have witnessed great kindness, care, hope, and love. We have adapted, and we been *resilient*. And now, while we must continue to exercise caution because COVID-19 still poses great risk to people's lives, there is real "light at the end of the tunnel", as more and more people (including many individuals we serve and their caregivers) are vaccinated against this unrelenting virus.

Recognizing these changing conditions, this past Monday, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released new guidance for **FULLY VACCINATED PEOPLE**.

The definition of "fully vaccinated" applies only to those people who have received BOTH DOSES of either the Pfizer or the Moderna version of the vaccine and have bypassed two weeks since receiving their second dose. Those who are vaccinated with the newly authorized *one-injection Johnson and Johnson version are considered fully vaccinated only after two weeks or more have passed since they were injected with the vaccine.*

According to the CDC, fully vaccinated people can:

- **Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing**
- **Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing**
- **Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic**

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- **Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing**
- **Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for**

severe COVID-19 disease

- **Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households**
- **Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings**
- **Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms**
- **Follow guidance issued by individual employers**
- **Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendation**

Since July of 2020, UCP Seguin has required testing every two weeks for all employees who are working with any individual served, co-workers, or in the community as representatives of the agency. In light of the new CDC guidance, we will be adjusting our own requirements and requiring only those who have not been fully vaccinated continue to be tested every two weeks. Additionally, employees who are having any COVID-19 symptoms will be required to be tested. We will continue to host onsite testing clinics but they will be held far less often as more and more staff are vaccinated and the need for testing decreases in the coming weeks and months.

Leaders and Volunteers who have been involved with the UCP Seguin COVID-19 Task Force since the pandemic began have been instrumental in ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals we serve and those who support them. Since the beginning of 2021 their efforts have been laser-focused on vaccinations. UCP Seguin participants, staff, foster parents, and family caregivers all began receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations in January 2021. The Oak Park Public Health Department got the ball rolling for several staff, foster parents and persons served. In February we hosted our first, and largest, vaccination clinic at the Carr Center with technicians from Walgreens administering the vaccines, paramedics on hand from the Cicero Fire Department, and dozens of dedicated volunteers assisting in this extremely well-organized event. Walgreen's has conducted several mass vaccination clinics at the Carr Center since then. Then starting in February, Chicago Internal Medicine Practice and Research (CIMPAR) has conducted several vaccination clinics at our CLIMB site in Villa Park.

By early April, through our UCP Seguin team's amazing and dedicated work, we project that more than 3,000 vaccine doses will have been administered and over 1,800 individuals will have received at least their first dose, most of whom will have received their second dose. This mighty effort is putting us another step closer to resuming a more "normal" schedule of programs and services for the children and adults we serve. While vaccinations are of utmost importance in combatting the coronavirus, we continue to expect that rules associated with masking, social distancing, sanitizing, and handwashing are followed. We are not out of the woods yet, but we are hopeful that with continued appropriate caution and as more and more people are vaccinated, we will be ever closer to resuming a more "normal" schedule of programs and services for the children and adults we serve.

For more detailed information from the CDC, you can visit their website by following this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

With appropriate caution, UCP Seguin is springing ahead into the light, after enduring the

long darkness of the pandemic. The brighter days we've all been waiting for are just around the corner.

As always, many thanks to all of you for all of your patience, kindness, and support over the past year.

Be Well from UCP Seguin Leadership,

Michelle Sanders

Joe Mengoni

John Voit

Jim Haptonstahl

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