

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

It has been just over three months since we last provided a COVID-19 update. We had been fortunate to be enjoying a relatively non-eventful several weeks on the pandemic front so there had been nothing much to communicate. As you are likely aware, Illinois numbers were down significantly and then were holding steady and things seemed to be going along in a fairly positive direction. We were cautiously optimistic. Then, as epidemiologists and scientists predicted would happen, we are experiencing an autumn surge that is resulting in a higher number of cases that we saw in the early days and weeks of this pandemic.

As of last night, rolling positivity rates in several Illinois regions, including Suburban Cook and DuPage Counties, are exceeding 8%. If the positivity rate continues to increase as we have seen over the past few weeks, the capacity of our health care systems to provide care to patients sick with COVID-19 or any other illness will be in jeopardy. In response to this very real crisis, Illinois has reinstated the mitigation strategies that were put in place early on in an attempt to once again gain control of the spread of this contagious and dangerous virus. At UCP Seguin, this means that in the coming days and weeks, changes to Community Day Services, social activities, or any other community outings or access will likely experience some changes. As changes occur, we will notify you. Additionally, the number of staff entering and exiting homes will be strictly limited to reduce exposure risk. Visits with family will continue to be permissible only outside, socially distanced and masked, as weather permits.

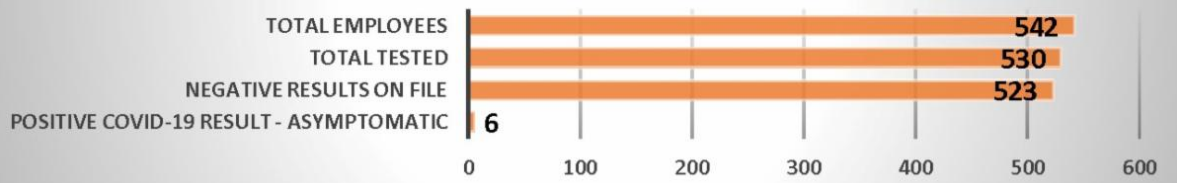
As of October 15th, UCP Seguin is now requiring all employees who are physically working at any program site, with any participants or co-workers, or in the community at job sites or at any other community location, be tested for COVID-19 no less than every two weeks. We continue to provide the opportunity for employees and foster parents to be tested on site several times each month at no charge.

In the last week, we have had six employees and two contractors test positive for COVID-19. These employees and contractors, most of whom were asymptomatic, were only made aware of their status because of UCP Seguin's testing protocol. We have been able to conduct our own internal contact tracing activities following receipt of positive results, notifying individuals that were known to be exposed either directly or indirectly, likely reducing the risk of further spread of the virus. To date, 530 employees have been tested. At this time, we have no participant or employee hospitalizations, which we are doing our utmost to prevent.

Employee COVID-19 Testing Data

UCP Seguin

Accurate as of 11/4/20



Based on our test numbers, the employee positivity rate as of last night is 1.13%, which is certainly much lower than the state's positivity rate. However, we will continue to require testing and will adjust our requirements if changes are warranted. We will not be satisfied until our numbers are 0%. We continue to maintain the belief that testing must be a priority when it comes to monitoring and isolating this virus.

We assure you that the safety of your loved ones, our staff, and humankind continues to be our top priority. We want to thank each one of you for your unwavering understanding, patience, and support as we navigate our 8th month of this public health crisis.

To Brighter Days Ahead.

Be Well,

Michelle Sanders
VP of Organizational
Management
COVID-19 Task Force
Spokesperson

John Voit
President/CEO

Jim Haptonstahl
Executive Vice President

**Support the COVID-19 Emergency
Fund**

