



#### Peoria

1913 West Townline Road, Peoria, IL 61615-1621

Phone: 309.691.3800

Fax: 309.689.3613

#### Swansea

4956 Benchmark Centre Drive, Suite A, Swansea, IL 62226-7605

Phone: 618.624.1088

Fax: 618.416.1921

[www.EPICci.org](http://www.EPICci.org)

EP!C Families, Guardians, and Advocates,

7-1-2020

We are celebrating our 7<sup>th</sup> week of no new positive COVID-19 cases. Please thank our frontline staff for staying focused on the health and safety of those we serve.

This week we received some long-awaited guidance and good news from the Department of Human Services (DHS). Due to the negative feedback the Department has received from families and providers on extending the reopening of Day Services to August 31st, EP!C received a notice yesterday that the DHS is now willing to allow what they call a soft opening of Community Day Service on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

This is great news for many of the people we serve. During the first part of June, EP!C had started preparing to reopen July 6<sup>th</sup> before DHS extended the reopening to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Our reopening workgroups utilized guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to design health and safety procedures for our reopening plan. The guidelines DHS recently sent us mirrors what our workgroups had already prepared.

Listed below is what we received from DHS.

The following conditions should be followed for a phased-in approach to be successful:

- All employees and individuals must follow “**social distancing (6 feet away from others)**” and “**masking**” practices through all phases.
- Higher levels of **safety precautions** specified by the IDPH, CDC, OSHA, and the DDD must be followed through all phases.
- Individuals at **higher risk** must continue to minimize time and contacts outside the household through all phases.

EP!C is ready to move forward and will begin to communicate with families and guardians this next month as we move to reopen Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This week EP!C sent revised visitation guidelines to the families of our residents, please let Doris Hayes know if you did not receive the revised guidelines.

Remember at any time you have questions please feel free to call or email:

Stephany Buhs	Sr. Director of Residential Services	(309)635-9432	<a href="mailto:sbuhs@epicci.org">sbuhs@epicci.org</a>
Katie Murphy	Sr. Director of Employment Services	(309)369-0461	<a href="mailto:kmurphy@epicci.org">kmurphy@epicci.org</a>
Doris Hayes	Chief Operating Officer	(309)689-3662	<a href="mailto:dhayes@epicci.org">dhayes@epicci.org</a>
Kim Cornwell	Chief Executive Officer	(309) 689-3624	<a href="mailto:kcornwell@epicci.org">kcornwell@epicci.org</a>

Enjoy this Holiday weekend and take care,

Kim Cornwell, CEO