The Amego School closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 13, 2020. Following the guidance of DESE, individualized remote learning plans were developed for each student and implemented through the Spring and early summer.

In June, DESE provided guidance that allowed for schools to start providing in-person summer services at the beginning of July with new health and safety precautions in place. For our summer re-opening, we identified all of our students as high priority for in-person learning, determined staffing and space required, assessed that we had necessary PPE, developed policies, procedures, and protocols, and trained staff on new policies and procedures. On July 20th, Amego School re-opened for Day students while some of our teaching and clinical staff were assigned to our four residential homes where our residential students are receiving in-person learning for the summer. Given that our staffing levels decreased during the pandemic, and given the new demands for smaller isolated groups of students with less crossover of teaching staff, we did not have the staffing resources to provide in-person summer services every day for all of our Day students. Most Day students began with 2 to 3 days of in-person summer school with those students who had been in crisis or who were most struggling receiving 4 to 5 days. Our goal for the summer is to increase all of our Day students to 5 days per week of in-person summer school, and to gradually transition our Residential students back into the school for their in-person learning.

**In-person Model:**
Although sufficient staffing levels may continue to be a challenge, we have resumed active recruitment and hiring. Our goal for the Fall is to have all our students, both Day and Residential, back in the school for full-time in-person learning. We have already established new COVID-19 related protocols, policies and procedures in order to re-open for in-person summer services and we will update these for the Fall, as well as retrain staff and make available to families and other stakeholders.

[LINK to Amego School Pandemic Reopening Handbook Fall 2020.]

We have increased the number of classrooms in order to increase social distancing. We plan to maintain separate cohorts for Day and Residential students with staggered arrival and dismissal times. Day students will be located in one wing of the building, and Residential students in the other, with dividers re-directing traffic such that Day students and Residential students do not cross paths and will use separate bathrooms. Residential students will be in the same classroom as their housemates. When possible, staff will remain in the same classrooms working with the same cohort of students. Traffic in the hallways will be minimized with students encouraged to take breaks outside. There will be limits to the number of students in the gym. Students will eat snacks and lunches in their classrooms and the library will be closed or used as classroom space. An air purifier system has been installed in the school’s ventilation system to neutralize viruses, bacteria and other contaminants. All classrooms have sinks. There are hand sanitizing stations throughout the building. Hand washing and sanitizing protocols are in place. There is a custodian on site during the whole school day continuously cleaning and disinfecting high touch areas. All staff will wear N95 or KN95 masks during the school day with additional PPE as indicated by the activity
taking place, for example gloves and face shield or goggles while assisting with tooth brushing.

If parents/guardians are not comfortable with their child returning to the school building for in-person learning, we will work with the family to develop an individualized remote/hybrid learning plan.

**Hybrid Model:**
Given our students' unique learning needs and challenges we do not believe that our students can effectively learn remotely. Our goal is to provide in-person learning to all of our students even if they cannot all be in the school building. If necessary in the Fall, we are prepared to continue with our summer school in-person model in which all the Day students come to the school building while the Residential students remain in their houses with educational, clinical, therapy, and administrative staff distributed across the 5 learning settings (i.e., school and 4 residential homes). Residential students will experience their school day and receive their IEP services in their residential homes while Day students continue to come to the school.

**Remote Model:**
Given our students' unique learning needs and challenges, we do not believe that our students can make effective progress with a remote learning model. If we cannot maintain an in-person model due to a new stay-at-home order, our Residential students will continue to receive educational services in their residential homes. We would initially provide resources and supports to our Day students and their families until we are able to work with families to resume an individualized remote learning plan, which may include assigning a staff to work with a Day student in their family home.