



April 23, 2020

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Stakeholders:

Last night's ZOOM meeting brought forth some great questions. It was a pleasure to have Senator Paul Feeney attend the meeting last night. His insights from a legislative perspective were helpful to gain further understanding of how our state government is working in these challenging times. Senator Feeney has been incredibly supportive of Amego during his tenure in the State Senate. He is an accessible resource and we thank him for his attendance and willingness to speak. As a reminder, his phone number is 617-722-1222 and his email is paul.feeney@masenate.gov. To look up your legislators, you can visit <https://malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator> and type in your address.

We will host another ZOOM meeting Wednesday, April 29th at 5pm. We encourage you to submit questions that you would like answered at the meeting or ahead of the meeting to: Contact@amegoinc.org. Many of the questions that continue to be raised are addressed below:

Timelines for Reopening Programs

As discussed last night, the day portion of the school program will remain closed through at least the end of what would be considered a traditional school year – the end of June. School staff will work to support the educational needs of students during this extended closure. The Residential component of the school remains open – meaning that the students in our Residential Program who did not go home with families will remain in their programs.

Student and Client Return to Residential Program Timelines

We continue to assess timelines for individuals who went home with families to return. We understand that this continues to be a challenge for many families. We will continue to review guidance and directives from the state and integrate them with practices that will work for Amego programs to ensure the safety of everyone.

Visitation Guidelines

Guidelines for visitation remain as previously described. We are not facilitating family visits at this point. We are still working with the May 4th date that was put in place by the Governor several weeks ago. It is likely that there will be adjustments to that date and we will work to develop practices that work for Amego programs when further guidance is issued. Discussion in this area occurs daily in our Pandemic Response Team Meetings.

Protocols – Safety and Staff and Client Testing

At the beginning of every shift staff are screened for symptoms. If staff are symptomatic, they are directed to call the HR Help Desk that was established the week of March 16th. This number is manned 24/7. Symptomatic staff are instructed to call their physicians and require medical clearance before returning to work. If a staff who has worked in a home tests positive for COVID-19 all families are notified. If an individual living in a home tests positive, guardians of all individuals living in that home are notified.

Mobile testing is available at DDS funded homes, but is reliant on the timing of a contracted testing provider. Primary Care Physicians are still ordering most tests as needed for our clients and staff and this is currently the most efficient route we can take.

All staff working in homes should be wearing an N95 or KN95 mask at all times. They have been instructed and trained to do so. Follow-up observations and calls are in place to ensure compliance with this. In addition to masks, all staff have face shields to wear when attending to personal care needs. Staff working in homes that have positive or presumed positive cases of COVID-19 have access to additional Personal Protective Equipment including gowns, ponchos, or other body coverings.

We also have masks available for individuals if they choose to wear them.

Donation Needs and Processes

Expenses to support our staff and clients during this Pandemic have been extreme. We will provide close to exact numbers next week.

To date we have spent over \$150,000 in Personal Protective Equipment.

Our payroll has run \$200k over typical payrolls since the payroll period beginning March 15th. Payroll is expected to continue to increase. We are providing additional pay to staff who maintain at least their base schedules. We are also providing a significant hourly increase to staff working in homes that are serving positive individuals. There is no funding for these additional costs. We are paying for this in hopes that funders will recognize these extreme costs.

In the absence of funding for these costs, monetary donations are being directed to offset the increased staffing costs and the expense of Personal Protective Equipment.

As discussed in previous communications we continue to need:

- N95 and KN95 masks as well as gowns are our most urgent needs
- Cleaning Supplies
- Antibacterial Soap
- Disinfectant Sprays
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels or Microfiber cloths
- Hand Sanitizer

We are also seeking volunteers to assist in the assembly of some of the KN95 masks that our staff will be using. Please reach out to Betsy Roche at BRoche@Amegolnc.org if you are able to donate a couple of hours to help put them together.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a nice evening,



President and Chief Executive Officer