**FAMILY INFORMATION- Effective July 27, 2021**

**COVID-19 Protocol Changes**

In maintaining consistency with OPWDD and CDC guidance, SASI is working to implement changes to some of our current procedures **effective July 27, 2021.**  As we have seen routine updates, all procedures are subject to change as CDC and OPWDD issue new guidance.

**Changes:**

* Consistent with CDC guidance, **fully vaccinated staff and program participants are no longer required to wear masks or maintain social distance** in most places within NYS, including within OPWDD certified, operated and/or funded facilities and programs.
* Vaccination status proof (copies of vaccination card or proof from app on phone) will be required for staff and individuals for all programs in order to determine when/if unmasking can occur
* Per CDC guidance, individuals and staff who are **unvaccinated are expected to continue to wear masks,** and maintain social distance to the extent possible at certified locations and/or when delivering or receiving certified services.
* Staff working in a location and/or delivering services to unvaccinated individuals must wear a facemask at all times. This is true regardless of the staff’s vaccination status, or the ability of the participant to wear a mask and/or social distance
* In a day program, if vaccinated people can be grouped as a cohort in a location, area or room, people can remove their masks.
* **ALL** visitors to such locations must continue to wear masks and maintain social distance to the extent possible for the duration of the visit, regardless of their vaccination status. This does not include sasi employees, or those affiliated with sasi volunteers, student interns, board members who have been vaccinated.
* Moving Miracles & High Hurdles – will screen all attendees and visitors, wear masks and distance for anyone unvaccinated. If all are vaccinated with proof, unmasking is permitted within that classroom. Anyone who is unvaccinated will still be required to mask up and socially distance.
* Sage would follow CDC guidelines and the discretion of their worksite
* Comm Hab and Respite would follow CDC guidelines and the discretion of individuals’ families and homes

**Things that will remain Unchanged:**

* Screening processes for all staff, individuals and visitors will remain the same- all screened prior to building entry
* All individuals and staff will continue to wear masks on vans at all times **regardless of vaccination status**
* All cleaning and sanitizing measures will remain in place

**Exceptions for Day Programs:**

Staff and individuals will be able to take off their masks within classrooms or other defined areas if all of the people within the area are vaccinated and have provided proof of such. A defined area will mean within a classroom or other area that can be effectively partitioned off within.

* Each program/service will be distributing specific guidelines regarding the above. Questions may be directed to the manager. Thank you.