

December 14, 2020

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

Farm of Hope provides three support services; Transportation, Farm (facility-based) program, and Community (100% community-based) program services. Each of these has specific mitigation strategies during the current pandemic environment.

Transportation Services. Services provided for Growers to and from the Farm program, and to and from Community group or individual meeting locations (Hubs).

Program Hours: **Each Grower and their family will determine the hours and days for their services.** Growers will be picked up from their home in time to get to their Community meeting location/Hub for these program hours. We will coordinate with each Grower and their family for pick up and drop off times. If drop off or pick up will be delayed our staff will notify you, if the Grower will be absent or they are running late please call the Farm at 717-298-1845.

Limitations: Maximum capacity for the vans will be three passengers plus the driver, or 1 passenger in a sedan plus the driver; these reflect 50% reduction in capacity.

Isolation and Cleaning: Each vehicle will be limited to specific Growers for that day, Growers will only use that one vehicle to limit possible transmission. The vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected after each daily use. The vehicles will carry a sanitation kit with supplies to clean and disinfect the vehicle as needed and handwashing supplies for the Growers to use throughout the day.

Screening and Check In: Growers will be screened using the criteria in Attachment 1, at their homes before entering the vehicle.

Families and residential staff are asked to pre-screen all Growers before they leave home in the mornings using the criteria in Attachment 1 and accompany them during screening to help answer questions; this determines if they should attend their program that day.

Farm Program. Facility based services will remain closed until we meet the recommended guidance contained in ODP Announcement 20-101; when Dauphin County rate of community spread is at or below 10% for two consecutive weeks – reported on Fridays.

Community Program. Community-based services provided in the Growers community include activities such as volunteering, recreation, learning and improving skills in groups to foster meaningful friendships while exploring the community.

Program Hours: **Each Grower and their family will determine the hours and days for their services.** If times need to be delayed please call the Farm at 717-298-1845.

Limitations: Transportation in the community will be limited to 3 passengers in each van plus the driver, or 1 passenger in a sedan plus the driver; these reflect 50% reduction in capacity. Each community group will have no more than 3 Growers (this also reflects a 50% reduced capacity), and the groups will not meet during the day as they did in the past. Each group of 3 Growers will have 2 staff, unless they need 1:1 supervision.

Isolation and Cleaning of Vehicles: Each vehicle will be limited to specific Growers for that day, Growers will only use that one vehicle to limit possible transmission. The vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected after each daily use. The vehicles will carry a sanitation kit with supplies to clean and disinfect the vehicle as needed and handwashing supplies for the Growers to use throughout the day.

Daily Activities: **With the scarcity of safe community opportunities, the Groups or 1:1 Growers will start and end their day in their own homes. Each Grower and their family will determine the amount of time they spend in their own home and in the community, as well as the level of public contact in their activities. The groups will maintain appropriate distancing from the other people while in public and follow all current CDC and PA DOH safety and health guidelines.** Growers will be instructed on the proper social hygiene techniques such as wearing masks and when masks can be removed when they can maintain appropriate distancing. Growers will be taught and encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. Lunch will be the only time during the day that appropriate distancing and masks will not be used. This is because some Growers have special supervision requirements when they are eating (choking protocols), and these take precedence during lunch. However, each group will still be appropriately distanced from the other people in public when eating lunch.

Masks. For our Growers masks are encouraged and staff will prompt them throughout the day to wear them, and teach them the proper way to wear them. We know some of our Growers can't tolerate masks for very long, or at all, due to health or sensory issues. Staff and visitors are required to wear masks when working with Growers, they will also teach the Growers when it is ok to remove their masks and the staff will model this. Growers and staff may need a break from their masks from time to time so we will use appropriate distancing and create a safe environment for the Growers to remove their masks. This learning opportunity helps them understand the importance of masks when around others.

Screening and Check In: **Growers will be screened by our staff when they arrive at their home – using Attachment 1.**