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*Serving Children and Adults with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities for over 70 Years*

July 2, 2020

PAUL H. TORRES  
Executive Director

Dear AHRC Suffolk Individuals, Families and Staff:

*"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." ~ Harry S. Truman*

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I think it would be safe to say that early on in this pandemic, many New Yorkers did have a fear of the unknown. As the weeks and months progressed, through courage, innovation and determination to stamp out COVID-19's hold on our state, New Yorkers have emerged as strong leaders, modeling for other states how to manage a pandemic, and our COVID-19 numbers reflect it. The state, and Suffolk County, have done a commendable job of reducing infection and spread. We are all doing our part by being prudent and vigilant; as I've said before, these are huge steps, but we cannot let our guard down. We are where we are because people are continuing to take the necessary steps to protect themselves, their loved ones, their coworkers and members of their communities. #InItTogether

As much as we celebrate the success we have had in New York, we look with caution at the data coming from other states. Just this week, the number of restricted states on the New York State COVID-19 Travel Advisory doubled to 16, with rising positive cases in those states putting the whole country at risk. Many of those states that had significantly advanced their reopening have now been pausing or adjusting reopening plans in recent days in response to surging cases. The travel advisory requires that people travelling to New York from one of restricted states must quarantine for 14 days. This advisory from Governor Cuomo can be updated at any time, so it is important to research current data and advisories if you have plans to travel or to have people visit you here in New York. The advisory can be found by **CLICKING HERE**.

Colorful and practical additions have begun popping up at some of our buildings in the last few days. Maintenance workers painted fun and colorful circles on the sidewalk in front of our Saul & Elaine Seiff Educare Center, to help serve as visual cues to maintain the recommended six-foot spacing between people. The circles were also added on the main walkways in front of the Bohemia facility, and plans are underway for circles to be painted at additional locations. These circles will be beneficial any time people will be moving about, unloading from transportation or potentially waiting to enter our buildings. Screening questions, temperature taking and attestations are now being taken for all employees and visitors at our administrative offices, as they have been for some time at our residences, and face coverings are a standard expectation. There will be many additional modifications and updates in the coming weeks and months, to best serve and support our individuals, families and staff.

Independence Day is upon us. For many of us, in years past that day typically would consist of large celebrations with family and friends. However this year, I anticipate many will be observing the day very differently, more cautiously. It is important to remember that New York has come so far, because we have all worked hard together (but separate), to move us forward. Please remain careful and proactive, and have a responsible and safe weekend.

Stay well, stay safe and thank you for all you do.

Paul H. Torres  
Executive Director



Your gift to our **COVID-19 Relief Fund** helps us purchase personal protective equipment, provide expanded medical and mental health services, increase our technology, and so much more. To donate, visit [www.ahrcsuffolk.org/covidrelief](http://www.ahrcsuffolk.org/covidrelief) (donations, marked **COVID-19 Relief Fund**, can also be mailed to the address at the top of this page)