



September 17, 2020

AN IMPORTANT RE-OPENING UPDATE:

An Open Letter to Our Participants, Instructors and Volunteers:

As you may know, On March 20, 2020 Governor DeWine announced all Ohio Senior Centers were to close because of COVID-19. During that time your Sylvania Senior Center staff has been working to prepare the physical environment to meet the required Responsible Re-Start Ohio Guidelines. More importantly we have been staying in touch with our participants via thousands of phone calls and e-mails making wellness checks and keeping them socially engaged and up to date. We have delivered food boxes and wellness kits to seniors in the Sylvania community. We have also started some Zoom classes which have been very well received and we have been here to make caregiver and family referrals.

Governor DeWine has now announced Senior Centers may reopen on September 21, 2020 if they can follow health guidelines issued by the Ohio Department of Health. Guidelines the Sylvania Senior Center must follow to reopen include but are not limited to:

- Implementing COVID-19 testing to all staff bi-weekly
- Implementing testing for select participants that may be showing signs of Covid-19
- Implementing an appointment only schedule for all in-person programming and pre-screening for COVID-19 via telephone the day before entering a facility
- Screening all participants prior to or immediately entering the facility with a temperature check and mini-medical assessment
- Individuals must wear a face covering while in the center at all times and will remain socially distanced
- Maintaining a daily log that tracks attendance of each participant
- The Senior Center staff shall assess existing capacity and identify participants best suited to return to the facility based on their pre-existing conditions and increased risk assessment

We miss having your Senior Center open and active and anxiously await your return but our priority will always be providing the best experience for you. At this time we do not feel that we would be living up to our mission "To Promote Healthy Aging" by opening our doors **JUST YET**. We must consider your health and the environment in the center. Additionally we need to be aware that 92% of the deaths in Ohio were people 60 years of age and older and the Governor's order specifies that people with underlying health conditions should continue to stay home. At this time we can't meet some of the mandated guidelines without some additional clarifications from the Ohio Department on Aging in time for a Sept 21, 2020 reopening. Once those clarifications are received and we feel confident in the plan that we are submitting to our local health department for approval, we will happily welcome you back on a phased and gradual schedule. In the meantime we will continue reaching out in new ways.

So for now, our Center will not re-open on September 21st, and we will continue to reach out by phone and through our virtual classes. We will send out an update as soon as more information is available.

Signed,
Your Caring Team at **The Sylvania Senior Center**

