



ACAP UPDATE 03-26-21

Dear ACAP Community,

ACAP is excited to hear about so many of our members being vaccinated! This will result in a safer environment for all of us. **Thank you to all** who are seeking this protection for yourselves and the wider community.

ACAP looks forward to welcoming all virtual and former members back to ACAP over the next months. We have been anticipating a time when COVID is declining, and like all of you, we are looking forward to a day when COVID is not determining all of our interactions.

However, **we also must ask for your patience and understanding** as we reacclimate members back to our onsite programming. We did our best to prepare for when former members would want to come back to ACAP, but we could not know the pacing of key factors, such as vaccination availability, evolving safety criteria, and personal preference.

We have been happy to hear from former members who are now being vaccinated and wish to return. Some of our virtual members are also wanting to return onsite, now that they are receiving vaccinations. When it rains, it pours!

ACAP needs to onboard returning members but also to balance space requirements, safety protocols, and staffing in the process. Because of this, returning ACAP members may experience a delay in starting back onsite with us. In addition, we may need to implement program changes to adjust to the increasing numbers onsite. We understand that this may be very frustrating after these long months of isolation, but we must ask for grace as we work to ensure that our staff and operations are not overwhelmed. We also are down three staff from when COVID first hit.

If you are currently a virtual only member or not in programming at all and you anticipate wanting to return in the next three months, please let me know at: sandra@acap-waukesha.org. Please communicate to me directly rather than through your ACAP coordinator, in order to streamline this process. We would like to know your target date for returning. **Please note:** we have filled our slots for returning members in March and April and some have been scheduled for May.

Returning members may find that new members have taken spots at ACAP over these past months. We informed our community of this possibility on August 26, when we shared that ACAP staff needed to focus on current members and operational needs. As returning members contact us, they will be placed on a list ahead of new members *who are not already in the onboarding process*. However, there still may be a delay to selecting a start date, as we concentrate on space, safety, and staffing needs. If you have any questions about our onboarding plans, please contact me.

Safety at ACAP

As of this writing, ACAP is proud to say that we have not experienced a COVID outbreak at ACAP since we re-opened onsite in July. Our stringent observance of safety precautions has protected us, and we will continue with these safety measures for the foreseeable future. This means that, even with vaccinations, all members onsite at ACAP must wear masks or shields at all times, have temperature checks before entering the building, wash/sanitize their hands regularly, stay 6 feet apart from each other while in programming, and stay home when sick.

Member Vaccinations

As noted in our last community letter, ACAP **strongly encourages** all members to seek and get COVID vaccinations. This is important because studies show a 94% or higher protective efficacy with the current vaccinations available (Pfizer and Moderna). This means that 94% of people who acquire the virus will be protected from serious and life-threatening illness due to COVID-19. The new Johnson & Johnson vaccine is proving to be 85% effective in preventing serious COVID-19 illness.ⁱ

Other reasons to get the vaccine include:

- Creating an environment of safety at ACAP.
 - ACAP serves many people with vulnerable health. An environment where most people have been vaccinated will make the likelihood of transmission at ACAP very low.
 - In a poll sent to members who have chosen to stay safer at home during the pandemic, 75% of them said they would return when they had received a vaccine AND when others at ACAP were vaccinated.
- Preventing the spread of the virus to others.
 - The vaccination clearly protects the person getting it, but because of the way COVID spreads, having more people vaccinated also protects people who don't get vaccinated: [How vaccines protect others](#)

ACAP will retain our current enhanced safety precautions for the near future. However, we encourage anyone with concerns about the vaccine to seek guidance from a medical professional or to learn more from the Centers for Disease Control:

[Benefits of getting a COVID vaccination](#); [6 things to know about COVID vaccinations](#); [Vaccine facts](#)

Thank you for being part of the ACAP community!



Sandra Gines, Executive Director

ⁱ <https://www.statnews.com/2021/02/02/comparing-the-covid-19-vaccines-developed-by-pfizer-moderna-and-johnson-johnson/>