

ACAP UPDATE 03-03-21

Dear ACAP Community,

It was a year ago to the day that we wrote our first COVID-related letter to the community. Back then, we had been tracking the pandemic as it moved across our country and were planning for how we would adjust to the health threat. We had yet to know all the changes that would be required.

Well, here we are, coming into our Spring Programming Session on Monday, March 15, operating in a new way but with our goals of inclusive community still at the forefront. We thank all of you for journeying through 2020 with us, and we appreciate your support as we focus on recovering our strength as an organization through 2021.

Programming Updates

ACAP's emphasis on safety remains paramount. To that end, we have taken the following actions:

- Nearly all ACAP staff have received their first and second COVID-19 vaccinations. We are hearing about others in our community having access to vaccines, and we encourage you to check with the Waukesha Health Department about vaccine availability for our members: [Waukesha County Public Health -- COVID-19](#).
- Staff are using new plexiglass barriers on tables during lunchtime. Thank you to Haley and her woodworking team for helping construct these items. This is an added measure (along with distancing, disinfecting, and handwashing) to help control the spread of any potential viruses while people have removed their masks for eating.
- ACAP asks all members and care teams to let us know about member illnesses, exposures, quarantines, and any positive COVID diagnoses. We have strong, protective policies in place, but the success of our efforts ultimately depends on good and timely communication from ACAP members.

Member Vaccinations

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.¹

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.



ACAP

People with disabilities leaving
their print on the community.

- 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](#)

Update about Session I 2021 (beginning Monday, March 15)

Schedules are being finalized and distributed to members for our next session. We have tried to construct a program schedule that can flexibly respond to changing circumstances. While physical distancing and our other safety protocols are still necessary, we are preparing to return to community-based opportunities as soon as we can.

Interim Week looks different this year. As you may recall, Interim Week is a week of special programming that also functions to give critical planning and administrative time to our wonderful staff. In the past, we had guest speakers and a week of special programming for a limited number of onsite members. This year, because of COVID-19, we are compromising with the following schedule:

- Monday-Tuesday (3/8-9) is programming as usual, no changes.
- Wednesday-Thursday (3/10-11) is virtual only programming, featuring special guest facilitators who are Therapeutic Recreation students from the University of WI – La Crosse.
- Friday (3/5) is a staff In-Service – No ACAP onsite or virtual programming.

Thank you for your support,

Sandra Gines, Executive Director

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