



ACAP UPDATE 05-03-2021

Dear ACAP Community,

In light of the expected return of the majority of our membership to onsite programming over the next months, **the ACAP Board of Directors and Executive Director approved a plan to eliminate ACAP's virtual programming, effective May 31, 2021.**

This move comes on the heels of the decision to reduce our virtual offerings in May to one class at each time slot (9 am, 11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm). **Virtual programs will continue through Friday, May 28.**

ACAP regrets the need to eliminate a program that many have found beneficial and enjoyable. However, our mission and our priority is to be together physically, and the needs of members who are returning onsite require the full strength of our staff in service.

As we mentioned in our previous letter to the community in early April, we are proud of the virtual program we created and believe it has value for the disabilities community in Wisconsin. We would support efforts to change how virtual programming is funded, which could lead to sustainability and to opportunities to provide services beyond geographic boundaries. However, this task is beyond ACAP as a single organization, and at present, we must focus on our immediate needs.

Pulling staff from virtual will allow us to more quickly add back the members wishing to be with us onsite while continuing to adhere to the crucial safety protocols that have, as of this writing, helped us avoid a COVID-19 outbreak at ACAP.

*If you are currently a virtual-only member or not in programming at all, and you have not already contacted Sandra, please let the director know about your intentions to return onsite to ACAP at: sandra@acap-waukesha.org. We already have a waiting list of new members who wish to be at ACAP. If we do not hear from you, we cannot guarantee you a space at ACAP when you are ready to return. Please communicate to Sandra directly rather than through your ACAP coordinator, in order to streamline this process. **Please note:** we are currently scheduling onsite returns for August and September.*

Allergy Season and COVID-19

Some of us know spring is here by our sneezy noses, itchy eyes, and other allergy symptoms. ACAP urges attention to the fact that allergies share some symptoms with COVID-19. If you are an allergy-sufferer and are feeling symptomatic, please take extra precautions in the interests of safety. Here is some information to help guide you: <https://www.emersonhospital.org/articles/allergies-or-covid-19>.

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 ([Information about getting vaccines](#)). This is important because studies show an 85-94% or higher protective efficacy with the current vaccinations available (Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J). This means that 85-94% of people who acquire the virus will be protected from serious and life-threatening illness due to COVID-19.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.
- 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](#)

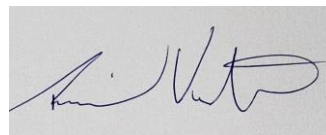
We encourage anyone with concerns about the vaccine to seek guidance from a medical professional or to learn more from the Centers for Disease Control:

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

Sincerely,



Sandra Gines, Executive Director



Rick Verthein, President, Board of Directors

ⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/janssen.html>