



Thank you to all of our staff who contributed input and photos to this week's story.

After lots of preparation and planning, AHRC Suffolk's Day Programs reopened on July 22nd. Programs are currently in Stage 1 of reopening and only open to individuals living at home. Individuals who chose to return to program were dropped off in the morning and met outside by one of our nurses. They then answered a COVID questionnaire and had their temperature taken and headed off to program. Staggered arrivals along with painted dots outside ensured social distancing, and arrow directional signs on the floor inside did the same.

Individuals were excited to return to program and see staff they hadn't seen in months. Day Habilitation classrooms were set up to allow for distanced interactions, and our Bohemia workshop, which is accommodating individuals from both Bohemia and Annex programs, also had a social distance update with tables spaced apart and separate boxes of supplies ready for each individual. Our Knickerbocker and Lakeland programs were combined and all individuals attending went to our Knickerbocker Avenue location. Our Westhampton Beach location also made accommodations to allow for social distancing and were delighted to see everyone return. Our Seiff Educare Center also reopened for students this week. Temperature checks and social distancing measures were taken along with minimizing person-to-person contact in classrooms. Students and staff were overjoyed to see each other and return to their classrooms and learning routines.

Approximately 100 individuals will be attending programs at our Bohemia, Knickerbocker, Westhampton Beach, and Shoreham locations this week. Staff were so happy to see familiar faces and get back to a sense of normalcy. *"Eagerly we have all awaited this day. Day Habilitation Staff lined up outside to welcome our individuals back to Bohemia Day Habilitation. The expressions on all of the faces of individuals and staff told the story, nothing else needed to be said. WE are on our way back!!! Excited, hopeful & thankful."* - Denise G., Bohemia's Day Hab's Assistant Program Administrator. Families were also so happy to see their loved ones back in program and getting back to a routine. Christie D., who attends our Bohemia Day Hab was very enthusiastic to return to program and see all of the staff that she loves. Her father spoke of how he feels AHRC Suffolk has been doing a great job and has really thought through the preparation for programs returning by using masks and applying social distancing measures. He noted how Christie has shown him how eager she is to learn while she's been at home and how she really looks forward to going to program again each day, and is doing quite well adjusting to the changes that have been made. He is enjoying the fact that she is back and happy that AHRC is back too!

