

January 6, 2022

Re: Important Redwood Updates

Redwood Family,

I hope you all are doing well during this difficult time. COVID continues to increase in the area, mainly due to the highly infectious Omicron variant. In the past several weeks, we've had to close program rooms numerous times due to positive cases. This week represents the highest number of COVID cases for clients and staff thus far during the pandemic. We continue to do our best to reduce the risk of COVID through screening, testing, masking, distancing and disinfecting rooms.

Testing Updates:

We are set to begin testing employees once again onsite, next week. This process will help to identify cases earlier and keep Redwood safer. As a reminder, if you would like your child to be tested for COVID at Redwood, you will need to fill out a new consent form. This is due to the change in our lab partner. However, the process is easy, just go to one of the links below to sign up. The top link is for anyone under 18, while the bottom link is for 18 and over. These tests are noninvasive, free and results are typically back in about 24 to 48 hours. Use this access code when prompted: **OT9Z86**

<http://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent>

<https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/invite-by-code>

COVID Vaccines and Boosters:

Redwood's leadership team has decided to make COVID vaccinations mandatory for all employees and interns. Employees are required to receive their first dose by January 14th. We did not arrive at this decision lightly, but given the risk to our medically fragile population, we feel it's the right thing to do. Fortunately, most of our employees have already voluntarily received their vaccinations.

Redwood strongly encourages our families to get vaccinated and boosted when eligible to help keep everyone safe. Vaccines and boosters are now widely available throughout Northern Kentucky. Vaccines are available for those 5 years and older. Boosters will soon be available for anyone 12 and older, currently it's 18 and up. Many of our adult clients

received their vaccinations over 6 months ago. It is strongly encouraged that they receive a booster as soon as possible. See the link below for more information on COVID, vaccines and testing.

<https://nkyhealth.org/individual-or-family/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19-home/covid-19-vaccination/>

Quarantine:

As COVID changes, so does the quarantine recommendations from the CDC and the Health Department. I realize it can get confusing with so many changes, but Redwood is in regular contact with health professionals. Please realize that these recommendations could change at any time.

- Fully vaccinated AND boosted individuals do not have to quarantine if they are symptom free.
- Unvaccinated and unboosted individuals will need to quarantine for a minimum of 5 days after exposure. After 5 days they will test, if the results are negative, they can return if they are able to wear a mask for 5 additional days. If the individual chooses not to test, they must quarantine for 10 days.
- Please report any possible exposure to Redwood as soon as possible, even after hours. Our team will coordinate the proper quarantine response with you.

Screening Procedures and Other Updates:

A reminder that anyone entering the building must first be screened by Redwood staff. This helps to ensure the health and safety of staff and clients.

- Please do not screen yourself. Staff must ask certain questions, take temperatures and document all the information.
- Please do not let anyone into the building. Only staff are permitted to give access in order to maintain a safe environment. We've worked hard to secure Redwood through a system of entry cards for access and cameras.
- Reminder that any COVID symptoms will get turned away at the door.
- All staff, parents, and visitors must wear masks. We will continue to encourage clients to do the same when possible. Surgical masks are more effective than cloth masks, please use surgical when possible.
- Redwood recommends flu shots to help reduce other illness that can be confused as COVID. In recent weeks, there has been an increase in flu and strep throat.
- Redwood's volunteer program has been temporarily suspended for safety reasons.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Respectfully,

Aaron Wagner
Chief Operating Officer