

**An Update From Allen Cress**

Good morning Edwards Center Families,

I often hear my father-in-law, a retired U.S. Army colonel, use the phrase “Semper Gumby.” In part, I think he’s poking a little fun at the Marines in my family. More broadly speaking though, I think the message he’s trying to convey is the need to remain flexible. He’s right, especially now. As we, along with the rest of the world, try to learn what life will look like on the other side of all this, it’s important that we be prepared to adapt. Edwards Center has always adapted to new norms. We remain nimble today and well prepared to meet our mission.

- I’m very pleased to report that we still have no diagnosed, presumptive or suspected cases of COVID-19 among our residents or staff.
- Although we’re seeing counties open up throughout the state, all restrictions implemented by the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) remain in place. This is due to evidence of increased incidence of negative medical outcomes among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- We continue to refine plans for reopening services at both Aloha and ECM once it’s safe and we’re permitted to do so. The safety of our participants and staff remains the primary discussion point in every meeting we have to develop those plans.
- While we are still supporting a number of people in their community jobs, we are taking our time reestablishing our Small Group Employment programs. As with our other programs, participant and staff safety remain our top concern.
- Staff across the full spectrum of services are now required to wear masks any time they are involved in direct care. We’re also helping our residents acclimate to the idea of wearing masks, as it’s increasingly clear that’s a part of our future.
- A couple of quick shout-outs –
  - Joe, a retired physician serving on our Board of Directors, and Laura, our staff RN, have been such a critical team as they’ve helped us navigate these times as safely as possible. It’s been so comforting for the whole team to be able to count on them for their counsel at every step!
  - I can not say it enough – I am so grateful for our incredible direct care staff. I speak with several of them every day of the week. I know first hand that their biggest concern is the health and safety of the people they’re supporting. I remain awed by their commitment to a very worthy group of people.
  - Finally, we as a team are so grateful for you, our family members. You’ve come through overwhelmingly with ideas, resources and, most importantly, your trust. I assure you, we do not take that lightly or for granted.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Semper Gumby,

**Allen**

**Embracing Staying Home**

Staying home can be fun when you have exciting activities! Here you can see Dee smiling while putting together a puzzle and tie-dying socks!

Our group home staff has been working hard to make sure no one is sitting at home bored. We are so grateful for fun projects like these to make staying home just a little easier.

**Stay Up To Date**

We have dedicated a page of the website to keep you up to date on all things related to COVID-19 at Edwards Center.

[VIEW THE PAGE](#)

**We're In This Together**

In these uncertain times, our highest priority is the health and wellbeing of all Edwards Center participants and staff as we work hard to get back to business as usual. We are dedicated to high-quality communication and welcome any questions at any time.

**Allen Cress, Executive Leader**  
[acress@edwardscenter.org](mailto:acress@edwardscenter.org)  
Cell: 971-236-7434

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™  
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.  
View this email [online](#).

4375 SW Edwards Pl  
Aloha, OR | 97078-2116 US

This email was sent to .  
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.