

Keeping you
"in THE"
know.



8/6/21

An Update from Cleveland Sight Center:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated their recommendations based on "level of community transmission." Cuyahoga County has reached the CDC's definition of "substantial transmission" based on positive cases per 100k residents.

As a result of this information, Cleveland Sight Center (CSC) protocols were updated earlier this week:

- Regardless of vaccination status, masks are required in CSC indoor spaces, unless alone in own space or actively eating or drinking.
- Masks are required during transportation with other passengers (whether in CSC vehicles or an outside transportation vendor's vehicle).
- Masks are required if mandated by another institution (e.g., while in the community at a hospital setting).
- Masks are required if inside a client's home.
- If you feel sick, please continue to stay home until you are no longer sick.
- Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are recommended to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. You should isolate for 10 days if your test result is positive.
- Continue to wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer if hand washing is not available.

Frequent cleaning procedures will continue and any plexiglass barriers will remain in place and chairs will remain separated in common areas on the first floor.

These protocols will be reevaluated periodically based on changes in the level of community transmission or other information.

We strongly encourage you to consider vaccination, if you have not yet done so. Please visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/> for more information.

CSC Making a Difference:

-A client recently shared this feedback about her experience with the Eyedea Shop, CSC's retail store:

"The Eyedea Shop is there to help you and the staff members there are very skilled. You don't have to go through a clinic or workshop [to understand]. They will help you. They are so encouraging."

-A volunteer shared this feedback about her experience with CSC:

"My involvement at Cleveland Sight Center has been really rewarding. I love seeing the sense of community that exists among the families and it really inspires me. I am always happy to help them with anything they need."

Educating the Community:

-The Outreach team facilitated four different panel discussions via conference calls throughout this week, engaging 16 first-year medical students at Case Western Reserve University who are participating in the Chronic Conditions Field Experience program with 16 CSC clients (and some family members). Clients talked about their struggles, how they overcome barriers and ways healthcare professionals can reduce a patient's frustration, anxiety and their perception of not being heard. The medical students expressed how beneficial it was to be a part of this discussion as it gave them a greater awareness of how to help people who are blind or have vision loss as well as the positive impact medical professionals can have on the patient exam experience. The Outreach team had a follow-up meeting with the students following each panel discussion and they described their experience by saying "how incredible it was," "the best field experience group they've attended" and "really helpful to hear input from the clients." One student said she never even thought about telling the patient what she was going to do beforehand and now can definitely see how that would make for a better patient experience. Another student was so moved by what he heard that he wants to become a volunteer at CSC.

-Two ophthalmology residents, one from Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute and one from Ohio State University, visited CSC this week to shadow the doctors in the Low Vision Clinic and take tours of the agency.

CSC's Outreach team continues to connect with community organizations and schools to coordinate upcoming programs as St. Mary of the Assumption School in Mentor scheduled an in-person blind and low vision awareness talk and activities under blindfold in the fall. They also were contacted by another school group for materials regarding blindness/low-vision and American Sign Language for the deaf/hard of hearing for an educator who teaches her students about the five senses and is considering hosting CSC to present a blindness awareness program in the fall.

What's Happening at CSC:

-The summer session at Bright Futures Preschool came to an end this week. The kids played and explored the world around them using their sight, touch, smell, taste and listening. The theme of the program was "Fairy Tales with a Twist." Students built with bricks, straw, and sticks for the story "The Three Little Pigs," stacked mattresses with different textures on frozen peas for "The Princess and the Pea," cooked and tried different kinds of porridge for "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and built a bridge over the water for "Three Billy Goats Gruff." Most of all they had fun! Thanks to Preschool Teacher Melissa Kraus and the entire Bright Futures Preschool crew for providing children with a wonderful summer experience! Image of a young client sitting on the sidewalk drawing with chalk



-To wrap up the week and cap off an amazing summer program, a dream came true for one of the attendees! Together with his peer role model Marcel, youngster Romaine sat in the Facilities Department's Gator™ Utility Vehicle pretending to drive! Romaine has always wanted to "drive" the utility vehicle. They also met Officer Green from the Cleveland Police Department, where they were able to explore the police cruiser and Officer Green's uniform. They asked questions and learned that the police officers are here to help anyone in need. What a great life lesson from summer camp they took home! Thanks Chris Gruber and Scott Malone for arranging the officer visit and Gator™ experience!



Image of Romaine in the driver's seat of the utility vehicle with his hands on the steering wheel
Image of Romaine with a smiling Officer Green

-Tons of exciting things are happening with Leisure & Lifestyle Services! Last Friday, the happiest of campers returned to Highbrook Lodge for a day trip that consisted of bowling, a competitive game of "Name That Tune" and a super fun and environmentally-friendly birdseed feeder craft!

Image is of two campers smiling and waving at the camera after they finished making their bird feeders



-Clients said "See you soon!" to volunteer Tim after the final Improv session of the summer this past Tuesday, after rousing rounds of "Pizza Man," "Big Booty" and other hilarious games and songs. Clients wrote the following nonsensical story one word and one person at a time:

"Once upon a time, Lambchop roasted her flowers around the fire. Then she ate something that tasted delicious and good. The chicken was petrified because it was afraid of the pot. It was crazy, stupendous, and went into her cage. She went into her abode, where she laid eggs. Where will eggs go when they get done? Bowl. When I have questions about this recipe story...?" What a cliff-hanger!



Image is of recreation clients, volunteer Tim, and L&LS Manager and Assistant posing for the camera after Improv

-L&LS is starting to wrap up its summer programming, but there's still a bit more to come! There is still a youth trip to Highbrook Lodge Saturday, August 7th! The final full in-person recreation day of the summer is Tuesday, August 10th and the final full virtual day of programming on Wednesday, August 11th.

-No need to fret about programs ending so soon, though, because there will be an End-of-Summer Party on Tuesday, August 17th from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.! There will be ice cream, dancing, karaoke and good company! Recreation clients and volunteers are welcome to join us to celebrate the end of an absolutely amazing summer! Stay tuned for news about Highbrook Lodge and the Fall Recreation and Special Events calendar!



-In other L&LS news, intern Hannah will be spending her final week with CSC next week before heading back to school at Ohio Wesleyan University. Feel free to send her a note of well wishes or stop by to say goodbye before her final day, which will be Friday, August 13th. We have absolutely LOVED having you, Hannah! And we'll miss you!

Image is of Alicia Howerton, Hannah Taylor and Bobbie Szabo at Highbrook Lodge holding materials from a craft

-Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Linda Jenkins: Linda Jenkins expresses that the motive behind her dedication to volunteer comes from her passion to give back to the people who have helped her. After experiencing glaucoma and a stroke, Linda knew she wanted to give back to her community, so she started volunteering at CSC, "the place that helped me gain my confidence back." Linda experienced a stroke a few years ago, which led to her becoming legally blind. She was recommended Cleveland Sight Center, where she received so much love and support. Linda was given visual aids which allowed her to overcome any doubts she had. She explained, "I lost my sight, but I gained insight."

Linda began volunteering at CSC, and in 2017, put in 723 hours of volunteering within her first year. She expressed that there is so much love amongst the people that she works with at CSC and beyond; Linda's experiences at CSC are so rewarding. Thank you to Linda, and to all of our wonderful CSC volunteers for the work you do! To read more about Linda and her work, and other CSC volunteers, click here:

<https://www.clevelandsightcenter.org/volunteer-spotlight?bblinkid=252998867&bbemailid=32902440&bbejrid=2043145241>

-You are invited to CSC's first-ever volunteer picnic! On Saturday, August 28th, Cleveland Sight Center is hosting a volunteer picnic at Edgewater Park to celebrate and thank our wonderful volunteers! Having donated 5,000+ hours to the agency in 2020, these volunteers make such a difference connecting with clients in meaningful ways to make a greater impact on their lives, supporting administrative projects that make strategic goals possible for staff, recording valuable material for our radio and more. CSC volunteers impact our mission and organization in small and great ways every day. One small way to show you appreciate the time and energy of our volunteers is to stop by our picnic to thank them for their work and to learn more about them...or if you are not able to attend the picnic, thank them while they are here, and get to know them and a little more about the work they do. Here in the volunteer department, we are repeatedly surprised, impressed and honored by the dedication and kindness of our volunteers - we are so excited to celebrate them every day, and to invite you to do the same! If you are interested in attending the Volunteer Picnic, please contact Melissa Mauk (x4581) for more information on the event.

-CSC's volunteer department is conducting reoccurring weekly appreciation meet-ups on a trial basis. A gathering where members of CSC's community can come together to listen to music and be in community

through collectively writing thank you notes to donors, volunteers, fellow staff or other supporters of the agency, appreciation meet-ups will create the space/time to say thank you to the people who matter to CSC and will be scheduled weekly for the following week. Thank you notes and pens will be provided, along with access to volunteer addresses as needed for corresponding thank you notes. If you are interested, please contact Melissa Mauk (x4581).

Item of Note:

-One of the most important Google Workspace tools is getting a significant software upgrade that should make the productivity suite more accessible than ever. The company has revealed an update to braille mode in Google Docs that it says makes it easier for users of assistive technology to interact with suggestions in documents. This means anyone using a screen reader or refreshable braille displays will be able to get a more interactive experience with Google Docs, with the company saying users will now hear detailed suggestion information inline with the rest of the text — including whether the suggestion is an insertion or deletion, and the author of the suggestion. To read more, click here: <https://www.techradar.com/amp/news/google-docs-is-getting-a-major-accessibility-upgrade>

Did You Know:

-Did you know Pizza Hut used to buy more kale than anyone in the United States? When Pizza Hut had salad bars, the chain was the largest purchaser of kale in the United States. However, the kale wasn't used for the salad...it was just used to spruce up the look of the salad bar!