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| Shawano County Department of Human Services provides equal opportunity in employment and service delivery. |

May 10, 2021

Regarding the Re-Opening of the Congregate Sites

Shawano, Wittenberg and Tigerton

Happy days are here again! We are able to safely serve meals and enjoy the company of others at some of our congregate meal sites. We have decided that the week of May 24th, 2021 is the perfect week to begin to welcome people back in to our sites.

We do have a few details we want to share with you about the re-openings. First of all, as COVID is still a concern in our community, we are hopeful everyone who wants one has been able to secure a vaccine. If you are wanting one and need support getting one, please call Heidi Russell. However, as not everyone has gotten a vaccine and as COVID can still be an issue with a vaccine, the CDC is recommending masking when indoors. We would appreciate, for the care and compassion of our neighbors, if you would wear a mask while we are inside and not eating. Masking has been proven to reduce the spread of pathogens and we want everyone to be as healthy as possible.

At our tables, we will be sitting 6 feet between households. Anyone residing together or individuals who live separately but are together often are considered a household. When you phone the centers for your reservations, your name will be placed on a seating chart in your household 6 feet from another household.

Speaking of reservations, you will need to phone the center to reserve your spot each time you want to join us. The number for Wittenberg and Tigerton is 715-253-2421 and Shawano is 715-526-9311. If we are unable to accommodate you on a date, you will have the first opportunity to join us on our next date. Please be patient with Paula and Jo. We will have some issues and confusion but with time, as the process is followed, we will have a nice system.

We will be checking temperatures as we come into the centers. Please be patient for Paula and Jo to come when you enter to take your temperature. Anyone with a fever will not be able to join us that day and can take their meal home with them. If you do not feel well, maybe have a cough, congestion or have lost your sense of smell or taste, please stay home. We do not want to spread any virus or bacteria to anyone else, whether it be COVID, the flu or just a nasty cold. No one likes to be sick and as we age we develop complications where a simple cold can linger and cause negative effects for a long time.

When BINGO is played, we will have disposable cards, but need you to bring your own markers – maybe Hershey Kisses or pennies. Unfortunately, we cannot play for money right now. We have some nice prizes for you of items used regularly around the home or snacks. We also will not have coffee available so feel free to bring your own beverage.

I appreciate that you want to return to join us. Paula, Jo and I have missed everyone and the fun we have had so much. If you have questions or concerns with our procedures, please call me at 715-526-4686. Thank you and WELCOME BACK!!!!

Heidi Russell

Director of Aging

Shawano County Human Services

715-526-4686