

STEPS RESPITE VOLUNTEERS ARE ADVISING FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

State and local health departments are approving medical offices, dentist offices, optometrist offices, hair salons, barbers, factories, and other businesses to reopen June 15th.

This would be a good time to **carefully** resume volunteering. This will be gradual with limiting volunteers in the office and gradually bringing in more. We can resume visits to the persons we serve while practicing best safety measures like visiting outside if possible and wearing facemasks. If people still do not have facemasks, they can call the Durand Union Station (989-288-3551) and arrange to go there and pick some up. I think Durand Union Station's best days for this are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

We are emphasizing that volunteers visit outside on a deck/porch when possible and do not do any transporting yet if possible!! Most of the people we serve have family that has stepped up to the plate and helped during this time, we do not want volunteers taking back over (especially when there is no need to take back over), and we sure do not want volunteers driving persons we serve if it can be avoided. It sounds like SATA is to resume services on June 16th too.

Angela will continue preparing the volunteers to return to volunteering in person (outside versus in the person's home whenever possible). I am thinking it would make sense that volunteers could do this starting June 15th. We really want our staff to talk with the person we are serving and the caregiver to make sure that this is okay. We are recommending everyone wears facemasks if they want the volunteer to resume.

We know that some volunteers may choose NOT to resume volunteering and that is okay. This needs to be an individual decision for everyone. If that is the case, we will try to find a different volunteer for persons we serve.

If the Health Department reports show an increase in cases, hospitalizations, or deaths, or the State of Michigan directs Stay Home Stay Safe precautions to resume, we may have to again stop home visits and volunteering in the office.

Let me know if you have any questions.

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Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee
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