

UCP Central PA  
Frequently Asked Questions- June 2021

**1. When will the lunch room open at Utley? We would like more picnic tables outside at Utley Drive. Is this possible?**

We are looking at July for the reopening of the Utley lunch room, but the date hasn't been determined. We have ordered three additional picnic tables and umbrellas for staff to use outside since our lunch room at Utley Drive remains closed.

**2. Are we planning to have the employee retreat in the spring?**

If all remains status quo with the spread of COVID in the community, we plan to have the employee retreat in the spring of 2022.

**3. Do I still need to submit my travel and gathering plans?**

We are asking people to continue to submit their travel and gathering plans. **Please remember to complete the Gathering Notification form—or the Travel Notification form as appropriate.** At the present time, we are only asking people who partake in international travel to quarantine.

**4. Why do my staff still need to wear a mask when the mandate has been lifted?**

In early May, the CDC indicated that individuals who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask. It is important that our policies don't cause staff who have chosen not to be vaccinated to stand out among their peers because of a mask requirement. Additionally, the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) still requires masking during the provision of services regardless of the vaccine status. The Governor of PA indicated that on June 28, the mask mandate will end for everyone. We are awaiting guidance from the ODP and OCDEL to help us define how we will move forward as an organization. We are hopeful that the guidance will be released soon. We will then update UCP's guidance related to masking.

**5. Will you require staff to mask up outside of work?**

UCP will not mandate masking for employees outside of work—but we encourage staff to continue to be considerate in their off hours. Staff should be mindful that when they come to work, they bring with them anything they picked up in their off hours—colds, flus, and/or COVID.

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**6. Is UCP involved in advocacy efforts related to services and supports for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism?**

UCP is a member of two provider associations, RCPA (Rehabilitation & Community Providers Association) and PAR (Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability). Both of these organizations organize advocacy efforts on behalf of our staff and the participants—with an eye towards enhancing the resources that are available for staff wages, benefits, and training. We encourage you to get involved in the advocacy efforts using the easy to use tools that are provided by PAR at the following link: <https://www.par.net/advocacy-toolkit> Also, CPS Manager, Crickitt Hoverter recorded an advocacy clip in support of increasing DSP wages—if you are interested in checking it out, you can do so at the following link: [Crickitt's Advocacy Video](#)

**7. If you have UCP's health insurance, Virtual Care through Capital Blue Cross has been extended to December 31, 2021 for both medical and behavioral health needs.**

At the June town hall meeting, we provided education on our health plan. Please check your inbox soon for a copy of the presentation.