



100 County Services Park
Sylva, NC 28779

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5/20/21

To all Participants, Volunteers, & Community Partners,

We hope everyone is staying safe and enjoying the Spring weather. This letter is to inform everyone of our upcoming plans at the Department on Aging to open to the public. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a long and difficult road for everyone involved and we are thrilled to be able to see your faces in person in the near future. First of all, I want to thank the staff who have worked so hard in providing services during the pandemic while our facility was still in most part closed to the public. We have continued to provide services through virtual programming, drive thru events, deliveries, home visits, on-site appointments, and phone calls. Also, a big thank you to our volunteers who have continued to volunteer during this difficult time to help us provide services. Lastly, we want to thank you for your patience and adapting to many changes as we sought to provide the safest services for seniors in Jackson County over the past 14 months.

So we are excited to announce that we will be opening several of our programs to the public on June 1st. This is very exciting for us to be able to have you back in our building. Even though we will be open to the public, everything will not be back to a full regular schedule until July 1st. Please see the details below of how programs will operate during the month of June.

Adult Day Program: The Adult Day Program will operate on a regular schedule.

Congregate Dining: Both Congregate dining sites will transition from drive thru meals to a combination of in person dining and drive thru for the month of June. In person dining will be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:30 am – 12:30 p.m. Drive thru meals will take place on Tuesday & Thursday from 11 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Everyone will still need to register for a meal by 3 p.m. the day before you plan to have a meal. Starting July 1st, the Congregate dining sites will transition back to a regular schedule of in person dining 5 days a week.

Meals on Wheels: Due to a shortage of volunteers, we will continue to deliver hot meals only on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday. In addition, on Monday and Wednesday each recipient will receive a cold meal as well as their hot meal to ensure all participants receive their 5 meals a week. Our goal is to transition back to 5 hot meals a week as soon as possible but it will depend on the numbers of new volunteers.

Jackson County Senior Center Classes – We will maintain our scheduled virtual classes for the month of June as we work to transition back to in person classes for July 1st. If feasible, we may decide to have some virtual options for classes but not sure just yet due to the extra staff needed to host classes.

Drop-In Services: All drop in services will be available starting June 1st including: Computer Lab, puzzles, Fit Lab Exercise Room, Lending Library, Billiards Room, and all classroom spaces.

Cashiers Senior Center: The Center will be open for drop in services for the month of June and will have congregate dining on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Drive thru meals will be available on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Virtual classes will continue for the month of June as they transition back to in person classes for July 1st.

Heritage Room, Board Room, & Conference Room: These will not be available for meetings till July 1st.

Project CARE – Project CARE will continue building ramps and providing other services. Starting June 1st the staff will now be able to install grab bars and smoke detectors again in homes.

Project FIRE – Hardwood firewood donations will continue to be accepted during the offseason if easily accessible.

Caring Hands Support Services – The Caring Hands Support Services will continue on a regular schedule including the Lending Closet, Project Lifesaver, Options Counseling, and Information and Assistance. Please schedule appointments if possible.

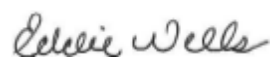
Medicare Counseling (SHIP) – Medicare counseling will continue on a regular schedule. Please schedule appointments if possible.

Veteran Services – Veteran Services will be on a regular schedule. Please schedule appointments if possible.

All other programs and services will be on a regular schedule moving forward. Masks will not be required except for services inside senior's homes. It is encouraged for anyone who does not have a vaccine to continue wearing a mask while in our building or volunteering.

Again, we thank you for your patience and we are very excited to open to the public. If you have questions, please call us at 586-5494

Sincerely,



Eddie Wells
Executive Director
Jackson County Department on Aging