

Date: 6/15/21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Office for the Aging Re-Opening Gouverneur Nutrition Center

The Office for the Aging will be re-opening the Gouverneur Nutrition Center for congregate dining on July 6, 2021. This is part of a gradual, phased approach to eventually re-opening all congregate dining centers over the next few months. As the threat of COVID-19 still remains, we want to ensure the safety of our clients, staff and volunteers. The Office for the Aging will be monitoring the center closely for any potential concerns.

As such, the following safety guidelines will now be in place for the Gouverneur Nutrition Center:

- All current CDC, NYSDOH and NYS Office for the Aging guidelines will be strictly followed and may be submit to change without advance notice.
- Congregate Diners **must make a reservation 24 hours in advance** by calling the Gouverneur Nutrition Center at 315-287-2302 or the Office at 315-386-4730.
- **Mask Wearing:** Vaccinated clients will not need to wear a mask to enter. Unvaccinated clients will need to wear a mask and may only remove it when they are seated at their table.
- Vaccinated clients may sit together at the same table.
- Unvaccinated clients will need to sit at least 6 feet apart from other diners and tables will be spaced out.
- Clients are asked to not arrive any earlier than 11:30 am and depart by 12:30 pm.
- Strict cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be in place.
- When clients arrive, an OFA volunteer or staff member will assist them with completing the daily COVID 19 screening questions, vaccination status and a temperature check.
- All participants must sign in. The sign in sheet and contribution box will be located at the entrance.
- Participants will be served at their tables; a pre-packed meal and beverage by OFA staff. Once participants are finished, staff will clear each place setting.

The Office for the Aging remains committed to keeping our clients, staff and volunteers as safe as possible. We appreciate everyone's support and cooperation with these new guidelines as we move safely forward. For more information on COVID-19 vaccinations and how you can receive one, please call Public Health at 315-386-2325.

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About St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging:

The Office for the Aging provides service and advocacy for county residents 60 years and older. Programs and services includes: Nutrition Centers and Home Delivered Meals; Home Care Services; Family Caregiver Support; Medical Transportation; Legal Services; Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance. The Office's mission is to develop a service system specifically designed to best meet the social and human needs of the elderly.

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