



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR LEXINGTON LEADERS - 4/21/20

| | People we Support | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Precautionary Quarantine due to illness | 4 | |
| Tested for COVID-19 due to Symptoms | 29 | |
| Tested for COVID-19 due to Exposure | 26 | |
| Negative for COVID-19 | 26 | |
| Positive for COVID-19 | 10 | 9 A |
| Pending Test Results | 16 | |
| # of Homes under Isolation measures | | |
| # of Homes successfully recovered | | |

As requested, we will try to issue this bulletin 2-3 times a week so you receive information in a consolidated format. You can access this email and all the materials contained in it at the links indicated or by going to <https://thearclexington.org/lex-leaders-covid-updates>

- **How are people affected doing?**
 - On Sunday, we got unfortunate news that Kathy, a person we support at Van Ren, tested positive for COVID-19 while at St. Peter's Hospital for what appeared to be unrelated symptoms . As of this afternoon, she is doing well and has been rretested for COVID-19 due to being asymptomatic.
 - All of the other people we support and staff at Van Ren were tested by late yesterday afternoon. We have implemented COVID-19 isolation precautions for the entire home. As soon as we learned of the diagnosis, our Response and Administrative Teams immediately went to the home, set up what was needed and helped the entire team stay strong.
 - Lucille, a person we support at Feura Bush, tested negative. She was moved to Johnstown, to isolate her from the positive cases at the home. Feura Bush remains under isolation and the Fulton team is helping them on every shift. All those who are

positive (people we support and 2 staff) are doing well. If everyone remains asymptomatic, this home will come off of isolation on April 29.

- Please continue to offer support to the leadership teams of these Albany homes: Jim Yanno, Priscilla Loveless, Missy Hale, Angela Rallo and Paula Sutton. A very special thank you to Toni Persch, Toni Houle, Pat Harrod, Dale Schermerhorn, Carol Olmstead and Maria Betts for personally helping with these two Albany homes. Thank you to all of you who have recruited Fulton staff to help there as well. We are grateful to Heidi vanDuesen who is calling each staff personally to provide emotional support.
 - On a very positive note, 175 S. Main Street came off of isolation on Saturday. Jimmy has recovered and no one else tested positive.
- **New Response Teams.** We recently had the opportunity to learn from some of our downstate chapters about effective strategies they've implemented in response to challenges presented by the coronavirus. One such strategy is the creation of Response Teams that are deployed to assist teams who have just learned of positive test cases. This response team is able to respond to the home of the positive test and assist with everything from supplying needed PPE, providing training to employees, answer any questions employees or people we support may have, assist in preparing the environment for increased PPE usage, and to provide emotional support to all involved. These teams will consist of Assistant Program Directors and experienced RNs, supplemented as needed with members from our Psychology Department and other members of the IRA Management team. Dale Schermerhorn and Carol Olmstead make up our first team. They were able to respond to our Van Ren IRA on Sunday to provide Jim Yanno, Angela Rallo and this team valuable support and assistance after we first learned of the positive test result there. Jim described the response over the weekend as much smoother and efficient. Maria Betts was able to also respond to the home in order to provide needed emotional support to everyone who lives there and to the group of employees. We will be forming two more Response Teams this week to help ensure an effective response should we have similar situations in the coming days and weeks. We're learning from other chapters, we're learning from our own experiences, and we're learning by sharing ideas within our Lexington Team.
 - **Preventative Measures.** We continue to ask of you and your staff to keep diligent about the preventative measures we need to take to keep COVID-19 from the people we support, especially those who are medically fragile.
 - We heard at our Management Meeting last week that there was a need for guidance as to **routines when arriving for shift**. Keeping in mind the new sign-in process and the need to make changes in infection control practices, we have created a new document for this guidance in regards to the order of completing all preparation when employees are starting their shift - see link below. Also click the link here for CDC placards with visuals about the sequence of putting on and removing PPE. Documents can also be found in GRP425 in the COVID-19 Materials folder.
 - [Guidance for Routine When First Arriving to Work](#)
 - [CDC Sequence for Putting On and Taking Off PPE](#)
 - **New Residential Disinfection protocols:** As we are all aware, our infection control practices play a very important role in keeping everyone healthy and preventing the spread of the coronavirus. To that end, we have received a new supply of Purell Food Service Surface Sanitizer that is great to use on food contact surfaces. Following is a link to talking points to share with your staff related to the use of this product along with updates to your kitchen disinfection and bathroom placards. In addition, we have taken this opportunity to review all disinfection placards and increase the frequency of disinfection for a few surfaces as well as the addition of new surfaces that should be disinfected on a regular basis. Please print the disinfection placards and replace them accordingly. If you have several bathrooms please print one per bathroom in the residence. Commodities order information: Purell Food

Service Surface Sanitizer – item #1242, 1 quart spray bottle @ \$3.82, SDS-SS 953 The placards can also be found in the Agency Public Drive (O) in the folder Disinfection Placard file – Residential.

- Talking Points for Staff – Disinfection Update
 - Disinfection Placards for Kitchen
 - Disinfection Placards for Bathroom
 - Disinfection Updates – Living Room and Items Throughout the House

- **New Disinfection Process for Lexington Office Space/Equipment:** One of the areas we feel that you can help make a difference and be proactive in stopping the spread of the coronavirus is for everyone with office space to disinfect their office equipment daily. There is a link below for instructions for disinfection. We need everyone's help and commitment to keeping our office environments safe for everyone. Questions about the new Disinfection protocols or this new disinfection process for offices? Please contact Michelle Peryea, Safety and Wellness Coordinator.
 - Office Space Disinfection Practices

- We have revised our **Employee and Visitor Symptom Check Log** to reflect the revised DOH guidance that says that we should check temps at the 8-hour mark in addition to upon reporting for shift. For some that means that people will have to be checked during their shift. Please guide your staff to do this with the revised log that is at the following link. You can also find this log in the GRP425 COVID-19 Materials folder.
 - Employee and Visitor Symptom Check Log

- **Masks:** Surgical masks for staff – Thank you to the Assistant Directors who are now picking up surgical masks and paper bags from Commodities on a weekly basis for distribution to their staff in our residences. We would like to remind all of our leadership to go over with staff the correct way to wear these masks – covering both the nose and mouth. If further training is needed, please access the video on Workplace regarding donning and doffing and the correct way to wear these masks. Homemade masks for staff - As you know the Governor has issued an Executive Order requiring all individuals in New York to wear some type of face covering over their mouth and nose when in public when social distancing is not possible. We have enough homemade masks to provide one to every employee if they request it. In *Lexington Happenings* last week we asked employees to request these through their managers or assistant directors. Please provide that information to Wally and his team will make sure to get them to you for distribution.

- **Social Distancing in our Homes:** Following information that we got from other chapters downstate that have been severely affected by the coronavirus, we asked you to begin the process of encouraging individuals to spend the majority of their time in their rooms to limit exposure to staff and to each other. All of our homes have started to put this process in place as of last week and we thank you for your leadership on this. We know it is not an easy process, and we appreciate your guidance with your staff and the people we support to get them to understand the importance of these social distancing techniques. Next step in this process is to have our clinical and medical teams work with managers and staff to assess individuals to see if it is safe to have meals in rooms, or to help schedule meal times in the dining rooms so that social distancing practices can be followed. Please watch for more information on these processes and ask your Director should you have any questions or need further information. Thank you for doing your absolute best to keep the people we support safe!

- **Emotional Health:** It is very important at this time to pay extra attention to emotional health - of people we support, our staff and yourselves. The Psychology department will be scheduling weekly sessions with you to talk to you about how we can use our tremendous psychology and social work resources to further support people in our homes, our staff as

well as you. Please make the time to attend one of the sessions each week. More information is forthcoming.

- **Communications:** You had mentioned in the management meetings that it would be helpful to have official communications regarding COVID-19 to dispel rumor and media influences. We have created a new group on Workplace called COVID-19 Information Center. Everyone who joins Workplace will automatically have access to this. We will use this for official COVID-19 information. Please ensure that your staff are joining Workplace. We now have 624 members. Let's get that above a 1,000. If you haven't had a chance, please take a look at the videos on there - [Lexington Champions](#) put together by Maria Nestle, [Sending positive thoughts to our Albany family](#) by Erin Pedrick's group and [Quarantine workout Pamela Pupkin style video](#) by Monica Fox's group . They truly help you see how strong the Lexington family is!
- **Next Full Management meetings:** We have scheduled full management meetings on Thursday, April 23rd. Please register for one of the following two sessions:
[Session 1 at 10:00 AM](#)
[Session 2 at 1:30 PM](#)

Thank you for all you do. We truly appreciate you!

With gratitude and tremendous respect for what you do,

Shaloni & Dan

[For all Lexington Leaders' COVID-19 Updates, please click here](#) |

