



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR LEXINGTON LEADERS - 4/27/20

As requested, we will try to issue this bulletin 1-2 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?

- Thirty-two of the 33 tests that were taken at Van Ren from the people we support and staff have come back negative. We are awaiting results from the last test that had to be re-taken. No one is currently symptomatic. Kathy, who was at St. Peter's Hospital, is also well and has returned to her home. Kathy has been tested 3 times with negative, positive and negative results in this order. If everyone remains asymptomatic, that home will come off isolation on Sunday, May 3.
- Lucille, a person we support at Feura Bush, tested negative and was moved to Johnstown to isolate her from the positive cases at her home. The good news is that Lucille has returned to Feura Bush and is still feeling well. When tested, she was positive for the anti body so she has likely developed immunity. If everyone remains asymptomatic at the home, Feura Bush will come off of isolation on Wednesday, 4/29.
- We are so grateful and amazed at the outpouring of support for Van Ren and Feura Bush, for all of the staff and the people who live there. It shows how strong the Lexington family is that you are supporting one another through these tough times. A special thanks to all of the Fulton staff who helped out at Feura Bush for the past few weeks. You are all truly appreciated!
- We received hand written cards for Feura Bush and Van Ren from people supported by Schoharie Arc. Our friends are thinking about us too.

Response Team Update. Early last week we told you about our new Response Team – how our first one was created and put to the test almost immediately by responding to Van Ren’s positive diagnosis for someone supported there. Jim Yanno reported how helpful it was to have this team be able to support the team at Van Ren, set up PPE and provide guidance to staff on how to put procedures into place. Response Team members stayed in contact throughout last week and into last weekend with the Van Ren team, providing guidance and support to not only staff, but also to the people who live there. Dale Schermerhorn and Carol Olmstead were the members of this first Response Team and we are grateful for their work with Van Ren!

Because of the first Response Team’s success, we have already put together a second team and are putting into place a third team. The first two Response Teams are now staffed by Dale Schermerhorn who is now partnered with Belinda Vair and the other team is staffed by Carol Olmstead and Heather Tomlinson. We split up Dale and Carol because they both now have experience and can help support Heather and Belinda should we need to deploy these teams again. The team members have now been supplied with “To Go” kits that contain all the necessary PPE, procedures and checklists and anything else needed so they are ready to go and can respond more quickly if needed. In addition, there are clinical resources that can be activated depending on the needs of the sites – Maria Betts who was so helpful with Van Ren, Darren Brown and Rodney Frenyea are ready to help should we need them. In addition, we have arranged to have a manager on-site with the staff for the first 24 hours after a positive diagnosis.

We are learning from every situation, and the Response Teams are fluid and changing as we go. Thank you to all who are participating in the planning, creation and staffing of these important pieces of our COVID-19 measures.

New Clinical Supports:

The clinical team is offering new ways to reach out for mental health supports, both for managers and for individuals. **COPING WITH COVID-19** is a Zoom support group for residential, day and support team management to come together to talk about the experiences of managing through the stressors and challenges of living, working and coping with COVID-19. There are two sessions each week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Both will be facilitated by Heidi Van Deusen, Candy Frasier and Maria Betts. Zoom info: Meeting ID: 918 6656 4361

For individuals supported at Lexington, the psychology team has put together a **ZOOM GET TOGETHER** for anyone who wants to chat and spend time with friends online. People are encouraged to join to chat, ask questions, share stories...but most importantly to spend time with friends! These sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays, 10am-11am and will be facilitated by the psych team. For any questions about these new supports, please contact Susan Banks.

Social Distancing in our Homes: Thank you to all staff who are making possible our social distancing protocols in our homes. We feel strongly, and evidence bears out, how important this preventative measure is in stopping the spread of the coronavirus. We hear how supportive and creative managers and staff are in making sure rooms are equipped to have what people need to spend long periods of time, how creative you and your staff are about strategies to make this happen. Clinical teams and managers are still working on the last of the assessments needed to look at taking meals in rooms/eating in dining areas where there is appropriate social distancing. Your Directors are telling us that the response to these measures has been better than anticipated. Thank you for your guidance and leadership in making this happen. It seemed almost impossible when we first were faced with this, but as usual you are doing everything possible to keep everyone safe.

Visitor Log Changes/Updates

We learned late last week that the Fulton Center, formerly known as the Fulton County Infirmary, located in Gloversville, was hit hard by the coronavirus - there are now 23 positive cases of people that live there. Please keep them in your thoughts as they battle through this pandemic and support their individuals. This high number of cases in this facility for a rural county like ours will affect many in our community. Due to this, we are putting additional safeguards in place regarding our Visitors Logs with a question now included for visitors/employees asking if they have immediate family members who work there, or if they themselves are employed there. Those visitors/employees wanting access to our facilities will be asked to wait for guidance from our medical team as to whether or not they can enter the building, depending on his/her situation. The Visitors Log has been updated and appears [here](#) as well as in the GRP425>COVID-19 Materials folder.

Call Out Procedures

As COVID-19 continues to be a concern throughout New York State, we realize you may continue to receive call outs from employees referencing concerns with COVID-19. Managers should be sure to use the [attached guidance document](#) when receiving those calls. In addition, please make sure that you are notifying Kathy Kane, Director of Medical Services in the event of this type of call out as stated in the guidance. You can also find this document in GRP425>COVID-19 Materials folder. Any questions please contact Michelle Peryea.

Management Meeting:

If you were scheduled to attend the 1pm full Management Zoom Meeting on Thursday, 4/23 you are aware that it was cancelled. Please make sure to view the recorded version of the same meeting that took place earlier that day at 10am. It is available here:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/ouFzc_La2DILaNbqw2zCcaEQNL_iaaa81SMZqfRczE1cmWKcTkgfOjTZjFNtc9k0?startTime=1587648446000

Password is #Leader23

Dinner for Four Reminder

Please remind your staff that the Fulton "Dinner for Four" letters expire on May 1, 2020. There are ten great Fulton County restaurants from which to choose a great meal for your family. If you have any questions please contact Wally Hart.



Prevention Kit for each Employee

This week, we will be stopping by each home for a curbside delivery of a kit for each employee. It includes, toilet paper, paper towels, box of tissues, hand sanitizer, gloves, disinfectant soap, disinfectant cleaner and masks. It is intended to support our employees to be safe at their home and in the community. We will send out information for those not working at a home later in the week. We would love to be able to see and wave to everyone as we come by! Thank you to all those who helped put this together.

***It's amazing what we can accomplish when we are in it together. Please take a look at the picture at the top of this email. That's our family at Feura Bush. Take a look at how amazing our staff are in supporting people while in full PPE.
THANK YOU for keeping the Lexington family strong.***

With gratitude and tremendous respect for what you do,

Shaloni & Dan

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

