



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR LEXINGTON LEADERS - 6/4/20

How are people affected doing?

- As of June 4, there were a total of 223 positive cases of coronavirus in Fulton County and 1,930 in Albany County. We continue to be able to share the good news that no one is currently positive in the Lexington Family.
- Its been very important to ensure that the outbreak at the Fulton Center doesn't result in increased cases at Lexington or in our community. We are seeing success with that since we haven't had a positive case since May 3rd nor are the community cases (outside of Fulton Center) increasing at an unusual rate. Thank you for all of your diligent efforts to monitor any connections to the Fulton Center and continuing to reinforce the precautions in all of our locations that have clearly been effective.
- Please continue to reinforce the preventative measures of using a surgical mask, use of gloves, social distancing and hand-washing.

Hand Sanitizer for Employees

We now have enough inventory to supply every employee with individual bottles of Purell hand sanitizer for use at work. In addition, we have 64 oz. pump bottles of Purell for each of our locations to be used to refill the 1 oz. bottles. These individual bottles are specified for use while at work only and are not to be taken home.

DISTRIBUTION:

Residential Assistant Directors:

Monday, June 8 - When you pick up your weekly mask/paper bag allotment for staff you will also pick up a 1 oz. bottle of Purell hand sanitizer for each employee in your programs. Please distribute these with employee masks. Please let all managers and staff know that these bottles are for their personal use AT WORK. At the same time, you will be given a 64 oz. pump bottle of Purell for each of your locations. These are specifically for our staff to refill their 1 oz. bottles. Please have these set up in the PPE stations in each home for this purpose.

Program Managers

The 1 oz. bottles of Purell hand sanitizer will be available for you in Commodities if that's how you get your weekly supply of masks. If you have masks delivered, your 1 oz. bottles will be delivered. The 64 oz. pump bottles will be delivered to large sites and support programs. Please put these bottles in reception areas for employees to refill their bottles.

Thank you for helping to keep all of our staff safe and healthy with these new hand sanitizing supplies!

Reopening Programs, Activities and Visits

We continue to await new guidance from OPWDD on when our services can begin to re-open. Here is a [link to a communication issued by the OPWDD Commissioner](#) which still doesn't allow for in person visits with families, so we have to be patient. In the meantime, please focus on teaching people we support how to use the preventative measures of wearing a cloth covering, hand washing and social distancing so that they are ready when we reopen and relax these procedures.

We have several work groups that are formulating plans for how Day services can be provided in a socially distanced way. In addition to planning for the early stages of the reopening of our services, we have also begun planning for resuming limited community outings, some level of family visitations, and new admissions and moves within our residential programs, all of which have been on hold since early March. These work groups are working closely with our medical team and Dr. Cope to identify the safest way to address these areas.

In the coming weeks we will continue to assess our buildings and make changes to ensure social distancing as we begin using them more. You will notice additional signage and other changes such as repositioning of furniture and plexiglass shields, arrows on the floors, etc. Please take note of these changes and help each other adjust behavior.

DQI Visits

As you know, DQI auditors are visiting agencies like ours to assess specific COVID-19 protocols and procedures that are in use. We spoke to leaders at the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Arc New York who received a recent audit. They were able to give us some insights into what they experienced, and we will use these as tools in our QI protocols. Mid-Hudson had two auditors on their recent visit; one who went inside and through the home, and another who stayed outside the home and acted as a recordkeeper. Some of the things that they looked at were screening procedures including examining log sheets, PPE and its guidance, and more. Some of the questions that they asked the onsite staff as part of the audit procedures were:

What would you do if you had symptoms of COVID-19? Have you ever worked in a home in which a person supported or a staff member tested positive? What PPE do you use now? If you needed more PPE, what would you do? What kind of PPE would you use in a positive case? What kind of cleaning supplies do you use/have on hand? What are your isolation procedures if someone tests positive?

Clinical Support Groups

As we reported last week, our clinical team has created a number of new support groups that launched last week. We are happy to report that for one of the first Day Hab Zoom get togethers, there were 14 participants from 9 houses who signed on to see each other - and were they glad to have the opportunity to do so! Please take advantage of these opportunities and support our individuals to participate, and take time to participate in our manager's support group, too. Here is the calendar again if you missed it: [Clinical Support Groups calendar](#)

CDC Guidelines for Care for Cloth Face Coverings

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published [updated guidance](#) on caring for cloth face coverings. The update details how to clean cloth face coverings by hand or machine and how to properly dry them. This information should be shared with all employees to care for the cloth face coverings used by people we support and for any that they might have for personal use.

Workplace for Agency Communication

One of the opportunities that has been realized from this pandemic is the communication that is taking place on Workplace. We have been so thankful to many of you for sharing what you have been doing at our homes to keep the individuals we support safe, healthy and happy in these challenging times. It has also helped us to keep connected as an agency to our programs and people that we would not have been able to do otherwise. Workplace is fast becoming the best

ways to communicate to everyone at the agency. Please support all of your staff members to get connected in this way, and to use the platform to share and connect. Please know that you do not need a Facebook account to sign up, but you do need an invitation to join. Please contact Meredith Fritch to join the Lexington conversation at fritchm@thearclexington.org. She can support anyone that needs help getting on and how to use this powerful tool. We will be publishing various tips and tricks for using Workplace in future issues of Lexington Happenings.

THANK YOU for going above and beyond to appreciate staff!

Even though we are still using preventative measure to stop the spread of COVID-19, you have found great ways to show your staff our appreciation! Above are some wonderful examples. From left, Family Services' Josephine Bailey and Heather Garcia visit Rosewood to show their appreciation for Naosa Smith who is celebrating her 5th year at Lexington; the men and team at 107 thank Danielle DeCuyke on her 10-year anniversary and Kim Blowers is congratulated via Zoom and by friends in and at the window of Bacon Brook on her retirement after 28 years of supporting people at Lexington.

Congratulations to everyone and thank you ALL for your service to Lexington, the people we support and our employees.

With gratitude and tremendous respect for what you do,

Shaloni & Dan

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

