

# LEXINGTON HAPPENINGS



## SPECIAL BULLETIN: COVID-19 UPDATES

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

### MESSAGE FROM SHALONI



Dear Lexington staff members,

I hope each of you is doing well, as are your families.

Here is my weekly update to you regarding our war with the virus:

#### The Facts:

	People we Support	Comments	Employees	Comments
Precautionary Quarantine due to illness	3		21	
Tested for COVID-19 due to Symptoms	29		14	
Tested for COVID-19 due to Exposure	26		72	
Negative for COVID-19	38		75	
Positive for COVID-19	10	9 Albany, 1 Glov	2	Albany home
Pending Test Results	4		7	
# of Homes under Isolation measures		2		Albany homes
# of Homes successful in being off of Isolation		1		Gloversville home

What this chart shows is that our positive results have gone up by 1 among people we support and none among employees. A lot more people have been tested and an additional home has been placed on isolation measures. Let me explain by each site:

- Albany home #1 is our most affected home. We lost 2 members of our family here and 7 others have tested positive. Two employees tested positive as well. The team here has done an incredibly courageous job in supporting everyone. Several staff members from Fulton are helping them on every shift. The Lexington family from all different parts has really come together to support the people who live here and the teams who work here. On Tuesday, I spoke with an elderly mom whose daughter is diagnosed with the virus at this home. Despite her own fears and anxiety, she could not stop telling me how blessed she was to have Lexington supporting her daughter and herself through this. Everyone who is currently positive is doing well. If all remain asymptomatic, this home will come off of isolation on April 29.

\* One member from Albany home #1 is being taken care of at Connections Day Hab in Johnstown to protect her, as she was the only person who tested negative for the virus.

- Albany home #2: On Sunday, we got unfortunate news that Kathy, a person we support at this home, tested positive for COVID-19 while at St. Peter's Hospital for what appeared to be unrelated symptoms. She has since recovered and returned home. Upon re-test, she was negative for the virus. We implemented COVID-19 isolation precautions for the entire home on Sunday. All of the other people we support and staff at this home were tested. Of the 45 tests, all but 4 have come back negative for the virus. As of this writing, we are awaiting the results of the 4 remaining tests.
- Gloversville home: On a very positive note, this home came off of isolation on Saturday, April 18.
- You may have seen the email from Kathy Kane sharing that we lost a family member from one of our Oppenheim area homes. Our hearts and sympathy are with his staff, friends and family. His COVID-19 test came back negative. However, we are still waiting for the results of a second test that was done when he was brought to the Little Falls hospital. This home has been quarantined as a precautionary measure only.

#### **Our strategy in fighting this war with COVID-19:**

Having experienced the devastating impact that COVID-19 has on our frail population, we have asked each of you to be extra diligent about the preventative measures that have been implemented. These include:

- *Disinfection, Sanitation and Handwashing procedures*
- *Use of Preventative Masks and Gloves*
- *Social Distancing*
- *Use of all these measures in your home and community:* We urge you to take what you do so well at work to help everyone remain safe and healthy and bring it to your home and community. In order to protect everyone we support, we need to ensure that we, as staff, are not bringing the virus into our homes and buildings. It is important to remember that people we support have been at home for over a month. They can only be infected if we, as staff, bring it to them. So, the best way we can help everyone be safe and healthy is to ensure that we are practicing the above noted prevention measures no matter where we are.

We learned from our experiences in the first home and implemented some measures that helped us have a different experience in our other homes. Two of these measures include:

- 1) Development of Response Teams: We have created Response Teams that are deployed immediately to the homes upon learning of positive test cases. This response team is able to assist with everything from supplying needed PPE, providing training, answering 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.
- 2) Emotional Health: It is very important at this time to pay extra attention to emotional health - of people we support and each other. Maria Betts of the Psychology department was one of the first people to respond to our Albany home on Sunday to help support everyone. We are grateful to Heidi Van Deusen, psychiatric nurse practitioner, who is calling each staff in the Albany affected homes to personally provide emotional support.

We have received feedback 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. Please ensure that you are joining Workplace. If you haven't received an invite, please contact Meredith Fritch at [fritchm@thearclexington.org](mailto:fritchm@thearclexington.org).

Finally, I wanted to update you on a situation completely unrelated to COVID-19. A few months back I had informed you that we were exploring partnership opportunities with Schoharie Arc. As we continued this process, we were recently asked to provide leadership to Schoharie Arc as their Executive Director had moved on. Effective immediately, Lexington will be providing management and fiscal oversight to Schoharie Arc as we continue to pursue a partnership or merger relationship with them.

Thank you for your support to everyone we are responsible for at Lexington and to each other. Please take care of yourselves, your family and the Lexington family.

With gratitude,

Shaloni

## #RISINGTOGETHER AT LEXINGTON!



Here are some more stories to make you smile from throughout Lexington!

- Teresa Ruby is using her time at home productively by working on her sewing skills! With the help of staff, she succeeded in making her first face mask last week. We are sure that many more creations are to come for Teresa!
- Physical therapy assistant Bonnie Reuss has become an integral part of the teams at Maple and McQueen, where she frequently visits to complete PT treatments and help people tackle their OT goals in creative ways. She also helps out with chores and other important tasks, fun activities and just making everyone laugh and keeping the mood uplifting during this uncertain time. Thank you to Bonnie and everyone else who adapted immediately to keep offering vital services through new challenges!
- The team at South Main goes above and beyond every day to make sure the men who live there have activities planned to keep them busy, and to help teach them about social distancing and why it's important for their own health and others'. Thanks to the hard work of the staff, everyone is smiling every day and taking an active role in keeping themselves and each other healthy. Pictured is Doug Lathrop decorating Easter eggs last week while modeling ideal mask wearing, glove usage and social distancing!
- The team at Wohlgenuth works hard to stay positive, hopeful and supportive to each other and the people who live there despite any challenge that comes their way. They are pictured here embracing the #518RainbowHunt movement and demonstrating how joyful moments can be found with others even while practicing social distancing!
- Park Avenue kept the holiday spirit alive last week with Easter crafts! They made their own stained glass decorated eggs and bunnies, pom pom and yarn rabbits, and spring-themed sensory bottles. Pictured is Tammy Finkle showing off her sensory bottle!
- DSC Liz Dudar came up with a fun way to teach people to identify high-touch surfaces and make sure they're disinfected often! A note like the one shown is placed on a high-touch surface, and whoever finds it has to clean the surface and put the note elsewhere for another person to find. This gives everyone a sense of proud ownership of keeping their environment safe!
- Rapp Road finished their contribution to the #518RainbowHunt! Everyone who lives and works there had a hand in creating this masterpiece. Thanks to all the staff who gathered materials and coordinated this project to spread cheer in their community!
- It is everyone's responsibility to help keep all Lexington locations free from sickness! The receptionists have been working hard to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Lexington by monitoring guests and colleagues for symptoms of illness. Pictured is 465 N. Perry Street receptionist Brigitte Harrington taking the temperature of coworker Jessica Frye prior to her starting work!

## DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR DINNER FOR FOUR VOUCHERS!

If you have not yet used the Dinner for Four vouchers you received in your paycheck on April 3, please remember to redeem yours before it expires on May 1. Don't miss out on the chance to have dinner taken care of by one of our local restaurants at no cost to you! If you have any questions, please contact Wally Hart at [hartw@thearclexington.org](mailto:hartw@thearclexington.org).

## DONATIONS OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR EMPLOYEES

Since the COVID-19 crisis began, Lexington has received overwhelming support from the community through donations of personal protective equipment for our employees and the people we support. We are incredibly grateful to every business and individual who has provided us with homemade cloth masks, surgical masks, gowns, face shields and other items that are critical to helping us keep our employees and the people we support as safe and healthy as possible. Some recent donations include:

- **Mohonk Masonry/Mohonk Landscaping**—donated 500 surgical masks.
- **Diana Marshall and Gloversville Sewing Center**—donated their first five gowns to Mountainview II.
- **Girl Scout Troops 2245 and 2281**—made and donated cloth masks.
- **RIST 3D Printing**—committed to donating 100-200 face shields this week and more each week following.
- **Cloth Masks**—in addition to the individuals and businesses listed in previous issues, the following individuals have also recently made and donated cloth masks: Lisa Hill, Bonnie Hogan, Sarah Jeffers and Sharon Reynolds.

## TRI-CITY FOOD CO-OP ORDERS

If you placed an order with **Tri-City Food Co-op**, please remember to pick up your items on April 28 at Oppenheim Day Hab. Questions? Call Sandy Hurlbert at (518) 775-5426 or Wally Hart at (518) 661-9932.

## VIRTUAL ARTS CLASSES AT THE PAUL NIGRA CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

The Nigra Arts Center is offering free and interactive virtual arts classes and other social activities through Zoom! To see the full calendar of classes and events, which include bingo, cooking, painting, photography, yoga, dance and more, please visit [thearclexington.org/s/April-2020-Nigra-Arts-Center-Virtual-Arts-Calendar.pdf](https://thearclexington.org/s/April-2020-Nigra-Arts-Center-Virtual-Arts-Calendar.pdf). All are welcome to participate! Pre-registration is required. To sign up, please email [lozierh@thearclexington.org](mailto:lozierh@thearclexington.org) or call (518) 661-9932.

## RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Resources highlighted in previous weeks can be found at [thearclexington.org/wellness](https://thearclexington.org/wellness) or [thearclexington.org/family-connections](https://thearclexington.org/family-connections).

- **United Concierge Medicine: The Virtual ER**—Lexington's Telemedicine provider (1-844-484-7362).
- **Auto Insurance Refunds and Credits**—Click here to find out if your auto insurance provider is one of many offering discounts and credits to customers impacted by COVID-19!
- **Companies Providing Services, Relief and Discounts to Customers**—If you and your family are feeling financial strain during the COVID-19 crisis, help is available! Click here for a list of childcare services, cell phone carriers, car insurance companies and banks that are offering extra support, services, discounts, resources and more to their customers.
- **KeyBank COVID-19 Relief for Clients**—KeyBank is offering loans, payment relief, waived fees and more to its customers—click here to see if you qualify!