



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR LEXINGTON LEADERS - 6/11/20

How is COVID-19 affecting Lexington?

- We had another week that we had no positive cases in the Lexington Family.
- We have 7 pending tests as of tonight for people we support, 5 are due to post hospital monitoring and 2 each with a symptom (Van Renn and Park). We are seeing a spike in testing but it's not a spike in illness rather all our tracking we are doing related to moves, returning to us from home, or post hospitalizations. In addition, people being admitted are getting tested upon screening or for pre-op/pre-procedure and we are tracking that as well.
- We have 1 employee awaiting results. She was last with a family member on 5/20 and found out on Monday that he has just tested positive.

COVID-19 in our communities:

- As of June 9, there were a total of 228 positive cases of coronavirus in Fulton County and 1,986 in Albany County. Since June 3 Albany cases rose by 66 and Fulton County by 15.
- The World Health Organization on Monday reported the highest ever daily COVID-19 case count globally.
- In the United States, 21 states are seeing coronavirus cases rise as the country reopens.
- This data tells a compelling story - that cases in our communities, our country, and around the world are still rising. This is a reminder of how all of the preventative measures we put in place at Lexington and we hope in your personal lives, continue to keep the Lexington family safe, including you, your staff and the people we support. Although it hasn't been easy and has been challenging in many ways, for now we continue to hold at bay the spread of COVID-19 at the agency.

New Study from Syracuse University Details Grim Statistics about COVID-19 and People with I/DD

A new study from Syracuse University is offering some of the first details about how the coronavirus is impacting people with developmental disabilities and the picture is grim. Individuals in this population are significantly more likely to die if they contract COVID-19, according to details published in the *Disability and Health Journal* in May. The Syracuse study's findings looked at medical records for 30,282 people with the virus, including 474 with developmental disabilities. Among those ages 18 to 74 with COVID-19, researchers found that the fatality rate was 4.5% for people with I/DD compared to 2.7% for others.

It's not entirely clear from the data why individuals with I/DD experience a higher risk of death from the virus, though the findings indicate that this group had more co-occurring conditions

including hypertension, heart disease, respiratory disease and diabetes. The researchers also noted that people with I/DD are more likely to live in congregate settings where it's harder to limit the spread of COVID-19. Scott Landes, an associate professor of sociology at Syracuse University who worked on the study said, "More attention is needed for this vulnerable health population in order to ensure their safety and well-being during this pandemic, including careful attention to the impact of public policies such as PPE prioritization and funding streams on the ability of residential service providers to guarantee quality care during this time."

New RN/LPN Referral Bonus Program for Employees

We are announcing a new RN/LPN Referral Bonus Program in this week's Lexington Happenings. You can also find the flyer for it [here](#). In addition to the \$500 referral bonus that employees would earn for anyone that is HIRED (over the period of 9 months of the new hire's employment), there is now an additional \$250 monthly drawing offered to employees who refer an RN/LPN who INTERVIEWS with Lexington. For any questions or more information contact Heidi Smith at smithhei@thearclexington.org.

Visitor and Symptom Check Log - Revised 6/10/20

There is a new Visitor and Symptom Check log which was revised on 6/10/20. Find it [here](#). You can also find this document in GRP425 >COVID19> Visitor Screening>Visitor Screening Residential.

The document was revised for a number of reasons:

- As a result of feedback we've heard from managers over the last few weeks
- As a result of new DOH requirements
- The new form provides more clarity around the expectation to check temp and symptoms upon arrival and at 8a, 4p and Midnight
- It includes screening for anyone who has tested positive for COVID19 within the last 14 days
- This revised form no longer requires employee / visitor to list their actual temperature. The new expectation is that employee/visitor verifies on the form that it was above or below 100.

If you have any questions or need further information please contact Patrick Dowd at dowdp@thearclexington.org.

Community Activities and Family Visits

We still have not received any guidance from OPWDD regarding these, so we continue to operate under an OPWDD mandate regarding closure of programs, outings and visits. Since the weather is nicer, we feel that we may be able to have people go out on a very limited scale, such as for a socially distanced drive or to an outdoor area where they would not have contact with the public. Managers will receive direction regarding this shortly from their Assistant Directors and Directors. Please do not relax any current guidelines until you hear from your Assistant Director or Director.

June is National Safety Month!

Now, more than ever, safety is crucial both inside and outside the workplace! Each year, the National Safety Council (NSC) recognizes National Safety Month® in June. Watch for the June 2020 issue of the Safety and Wellness Update that will include key topics from the NSC, including fatigue safety tips, ergonomics everywhere, and safe lifting. Please be sure to share the newsletter with your staff.

May 2020 Safety Report - Prevention and Opportunities for Improvement

1. The month of May closed out with a total of 10 staff injuries, specifically:
 - Providing Emotional Support – 4 (2 OSHA)
 - Providing Physical Assistance – 2 (0 OSHA)
 - Slips, Trips, Falls – 3 (2 OSHA)
 - Other – 1 (1 OSHA)
1. There have been a few staff injuries involving supporting a person while using the toilet. Please ensure that staff are well aware of the information that is available in a

person's MCIS, for example, some things to be mindful of while supporting a person that may need an additional staff to assist.

- During safety inspections in the bathrooms, please ensure that the toilets are well secured to the floor, the floor bolt covers are not missing, the toilet seat is not loose, and any grab bars are likewise well secured.
- 1. Slips, trips, and falls prevention – 2 of the 3 slips, trips, and falls from May were slips due to not typical substances on the floor. Please be mindful and watchful for potential slippery substances (and clean up), such as dropped hand sanitizer, urine, foot powder, and of course, water.
- During safety inspections, please likewise be watchful for tripping hazards such as clothes on the floor, cords or hoses, blankets hanging over beds, bunched up carpet or rugs, beanbags, stuffed animals, and so forth.
- The Lexington Safety Committee is so pleased to report a grand total of ONE (1) slip, trip, and fall during the month of April! Please continue to communicate safety with your teams!

Looking for **Safety Liaison** information - We are looking to recognize Safety Liaisons during Safety Month. Please provide names of your Safety Liaisons to Terry Swierzowski at swierzt@thearclexington.org by Tuesday, 6/16.

Certificates for Dinner/Groceries:

Please remind staff to use these before June 15 except if they are being used for Tri-City Co-op Foods in which case they are good until the end of the month. Questions? Please contact Lynette May at mayl@thearclexington.org

Preparing for Summer...and Smiles!

Despite our challenges with the pandemic and the changes to routine, the work that you do to support the individuals at Lexington really shines through! You are constantly finding ways to continue to make people happy while keeping them safe and we see evidence of this every day (above).

THANK YOU for your continued work for our Lexington family!

With gratitude and tremendous respect for what you do,

Shaloni & Dan

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