



UPDATE FOR LEXINGTON LEADERS - 9/21/20

COVID-19 at Lexington

Our agency in all three counties - Albany, Fulton and Schoharie - is doing well with COVID-19 in terms of people we support – thankfully there are no current cases. Since May 7, there have been no positive COVID-19 cases among people we support in Albany and Fulton. We are so grateful for all of you with your consistent leadership with the use of masks and other PPE to stop the spread of transmission to anyone else in the Lexington family. There are currently three staff members in Fulton on mandatory quarantine due to exposure. Thankfully they all tested negative and are doing well. In Schoharie, there are currently no concerns with staff or people we support.

COVID-19 in our Communities

As of September 21 the numbers in Albany, Fulton and Schoharie are as follows:

Albany – 3,024 – an increase of 103 since September 14

Fulton – 332 – an increase of 12 positive cases since September 14

Schoharie - 83 cases - with one positive diagnosis since September 14

Because of recent outbreaks surrounding college towns, including at SUNY Albany, and a recent outbreak at neighboring Saratoga Bridges (Saratoga Arc) and other close clusters of positive cases, Dr. Cope, Lexington's Medical Director, is asking us to be conservative and extra diligent over the next few weeks to make sure it doesn't come into our environment. We hope you will be cautious as well in the community so we don't bring COVID-19 into Lexington. Please remind your staff to do the same.

Saratoga Bridges (Arc) had no cases until 3 weeks ago. Suddenly, 10 people living in one house and 15 employees became infected. One house went on isolation and 3 others were quarantined. Thankfully, everyone is recovering. In their review, what they have found is that the spread came from staff who did not report symptoms of illness and/or travel to quarantined states. As managers, please be vigilant. You know your staff the best. Please bring these to nursing's attention so we can take precautions immediately. They also shared that staff had become relaxed about the use of masks. Please continually check on mask usage.

MASKS

Please be reminded that all employees are to wear an agency-issued surgical mask at all times when on duty. All other masks are not options unless you/staff are directed to wear a N95 mask by your RN for which you should have been fit tested. We have noticed many different types of masks that are being worn by staff while at work. Please know that this directive for masks comes from OPWDD.

Here are some reminders about masks and their use at Lexington (this is specific to Albany and Fulton, but good reminders for all):

[Surgical Masks, Gloves and Hand Sanitizer Use 6/16/20](#) - includes information on mask distribution, when to wear masks, when to change masks, and where to keep masks while at work.

FLU VACCINE

This year, more than ever, it is so important to get the flu vaccine - with the COVID-19 pandemic we want to be vigilant and prevent similar respiratory illnesses like the flu from coming to our agency and the people we support. The flu vaccine is being offered FREE to all employees - please encourage all employees to get their vaccine! The clinics will be offered differently this year as we are allowing for proper social distancing. Please follow [this link](#) to find out more details about these flu vaccine clinics in Albany and Fulton and share with all your staff members. Watch for further information about clinics that will be scheduled in Schoharie.

Please also encourage people to watch a video on the flu vaccine from Dr. Kevin Cope, Lexington's Medical Director. You can access it here: [https://youtu.be/ u701Z7QCGQ](https://youtu.be/u701Z7QCGQ) .The video will also be posted on Workplace (Fulton and Albany's internal communications platform).

LEXINGTON MEDICAL POLICY REVISIONS

Medical policies M110-15 and M115-2 were combined to now be M110-15 Medication: Accountability, Documentation, Storage and Security ([click here for document](#)). The change in the policy/practice that will impact all staff is on page 3 under Documentation/Accountability # 7 If no second medication certified staff is available for a shift change count off, staff will proceed with a solo count, sign off on their count and will follow medication security guidelines. The staff will no longer call a RN on call to verify the count.

Please see the [attached](#) revised R115-1 *Criteria and Procedure for Calling the RN*. This is a combination of the policy for Nursing on Call Procedure, and Criteria for Calling the RN. As the criteria for calling the RN is already a posted document in the med area, staff will also now have the process for how to call the RN on this new policy, too. There has been no change in the criteria for calling the RN or the process of how to call rather it is now in one document that is posted for clarification. Please post in your med area and the remove old policy.

If you have any questions about these policies, please contact Kathy Kane at kanek@thearclexington.org.

SAVE THE DATES!

We are in the process of putting together some in-person meeting dates for Employee Informational Meetings about the items we talked about at our management meetings, Employee Awards, Service Recognition and more. Save these dates and watch for more information to come:

Schoharie - Opportunity Drive

Wednesday, October 7 | Thursday, October 8 | Friday, October 9

Fulton - Nigra Arts Center

Tuesday, October 13 | Wednesday, October 14 | Thursday, October 15 | Friday, October 16

Monday, October 19 | Tuesday, October 20 | Thursday, October 22 | Friday, October 23

Fulton (West) and Albany - We are still looking for an appropriate outdoor location. Watch for dates and times!

IN-PERSON MANAGEMENT MEETINGS AT THE ARTS CENTER

It was great to see you in person at the management meetings recently held at the Nigra Arts Center. Thank you for registering for specific meetings so as to keep proper social distance protocols in place. We made an effort to pair Fulton & Albany Leaders at these meetings with management from Schoharie as we get to know these new members of our Lexington family, moving closer to the merger of the two agencies. We appreciate that you all took part in the "getting to know you" exercise at the meetings. We know you will remain helpful and supportive of

each other as we continue the excellence that we have come to expect from our leaders as we support people with disabilities in our programs.

#RisingTogether
DSP Week Recognition and Fun

Thank you so much for helping us honor and celebrate our DSP Staff last week! We love the way you participated in the theme days (above), games and other ways to recognize our important DSPs. We know they appreciated everything that you did for them last week, as well as the ongoing support you show them in their work everyday.

With gratitude and tremendous respect for what you do,

Shaloni & Dan