



UPDATES FOR LEXINGTON LEADERS

August 19, 2021



“Great leadership usually starts with a willing heart, a positive attitude, and a desire to make a difference.”

-Mac Anderson

COVID-19 AT LEXINGTON

- 29A experienced a staff member who tested positive; so far there has been no spread to other staff or people who live there. The house has been cleared from enhanced precautions.
- Van Renn also experienced exposure with someone who worked there testing positive. The house is no longer on enhanced precautions and thankfully there was no spread.
- Phelps Street and Ridge Road were on enhanced precautions because of staff who tested positive who had worked at both houses. Again no spread to date.
- At Park Ave. there are three positive staff members, and 7 of the people who live there also tested positive. After a hospital stay for one person supported there, she is now home and everyone was treated and is doing okay. The house is on quarantine until 8/23.

COVID-19 IN THE COMMUNITY

- As of 8/15, the 7-day rolling average of positive cases: Fulton 4.6% | Schoharie 6.4% | Albany 4.4%
- The CDC strongly recommends masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status, in areas with “substantial” and “high” transmission of COVID-19. High COVID transmission: Albany and Schoharie Counties; Substantial COVID transmission: Fulton County

VACCINATIONS AT LEXINGTON

- 74% of our total staff and the total number of people we support (residents and community) are now vaccinated
- 97.1% of people who live in our homes are vaccinated
- Lexington staff who have received first dose of vaccine: Schoharie 73% | Fulton 67.3% | Albany 44.2%

UPDATE ON COVID-19 GUIDANCE, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

As you can see by the data above, COVID-19 has infiltrated the agency and is affecting both staff and the people we support. Because of the rapid spread of the Delta variant, the CDC, the state and our counties have guidance that has changed recently. Lexington's Medical Team has taken into account all of this updated guidance, as well as the spread through the agency, and has this week updated Lexington's COVID-19 guidance. **The new guidance is effective immediately.** We have also updated the **COVID-19 Guidelines Reference Chart** that is included below and also included an updated **COVID-19 Safety Checklist**. Should anyone have questions about any of this information they should contact their immediate supervisor.

Symptom Screening

In taking a look at all of our COVID protocols as we are seeing more positive cases at Lexington, three of our five recent exposures included concerns with an employee having symptoms and getting through the screening process. Symptom screening is SO important to stop the spread of COVID to the people we support and our staff at all of our facilities. We can't let COVID through our doors!

- There is a revised Symptom Screening form and Screening Instructions below.
- As a reminder, Day Passes are for vaccinated staff members and should be filled out by screeners only. Screeners have to check badges to make sure they are issuing to vaccinated staff and pass should be initialed by the screener

PPE Guidance for Employees - NEW

When Indoors

- When with people we support – Regardless of vaccine status, employees are required to use a Lexington issued KN95 face mask at all times unless the employee is in a completely separate area of the home or program space where the 6-foot distance can be guaranteed
- When in Non-program areas – Regardless of vaccine status, employees are required to use a Lexington issued Surgical face mask at all times unless the employee is in a completely separate area where the 6-foot distance can be guaranteed
- Exceptions are in single-person offices, or in offices with protective partitions installed, but in these scenarios, the employee must wear the mask whenever they leave this office space

When Outdoors

- Regardless of vaccine status, if outdoors with people we support, KN95 mask use is required if a 6-foot distance cannot be guaranteed
- If outdoors with other employees, the surgical mask is required if a 6-foot distance cannot be guaranteed

Transportation

- KN95 masks are now required during transportation when people we support are in vehicle.

PPE Guidance for People We Support

- Strongly encourage mask use at all times when indoors or outside when 6-foot distancing cannot be maintained.

Visitors

- All visitors, including family members and advocates, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear Lexington-issued KN95 masks when working/visiting indoors, as well as outdoors when 6-foot distancing cannot be maintained.

Managers COVID-19 Support Line: (518) 774-2073 - FOR STAFF

- Open 7 days a week, 8 AM to 6 PM, and available to report COVID-19 employee information as well as to obtain assistance on what to do in specific situations.
- For COVID-19 concerns/questions about people we support, please contact the person's nurse, not this support line.

FORMS

- *Employee and Visitor Temperature and Symptom Check Log - Revised 8/18/21*
- *COVID-19 Screening Instructions 8/18/21*

- COVID-19 Guidelines Reference Chart, 8/16/21 - form can also be found in GRP425>COVID Material>P&P folder
 - COVID-19 Safety Checklist, 8/16/21 - can also be found in the same location as Reference Chart
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Dear Lexington Leaders,

Guidance from the CDC, the state, and OPWDD is changing daily as COVID-19 again permeates our communities, and our Lexington family. Please continue to support your staff with all the tools, procedures and policies we have put in place for the last several months to keep COVID from the agency. We need to get back to the basics of fighting this virus - symptom screening, hand washing, disinfection, mask wearing, and social distancing are key. Our team has come a long way in the fight against COVID - Lexington continues to be at the top of chapters of the Arc NY in terms of vaccination numbers of our staff and people we support - and we are proud of that.

We know as Leaders you are dealing with a lot right now - staffing challenges, changing protocols, guidelines and more. The way you continue to support people and your staff is nothing short of amazing.

It was so wonderful to see and talk to so many of you and your staff during our nurturing environment meetings under the tent in July. We are planning for our next set of nurturing environment meetings to be in September. But realizing that not everyone is able to come to a meeting, we are going to make it a priority to attend your staff meetings during the next couple of months, simply to say THANK YOU and answer any questions or concerns staff may have. As there are close to 75 meetings, it will take us some time but we will eventually get to all. During the last week, we attended the staff meetings of 175 South Main, McQueen, Ridge Road, Stahl and Transitions. We are looking forward to seeing the Grove Street tomorrow.

*It was incredibly impressive and totally touching to hear from the staff in these programs.....to learn about how each of these teams have supported one another to help people they support **smile** as they too cope with this pandemic. The feeling of "family" was evident with every team. We know that this culture at every program at Lexington happens because of YOU. Thank you for all you do - especially during these times of uncertainty and change. With this Team at the helm of our agency, we know we can win the war against COVID.*

Shaloni & Dan

This newsletter will be archived at the following link:
<https://thearclexington.org/lex-leaders-covid-updates>
