COVID-19 Pandemic Preparedness

Due to the recent increase in coronavirus (COVID-19) diagnosis nationally as well as in Michigan, we feel the need to develop a plan to help protect our vulnerable populations and aid the social responsibility of reducing the spread of the virus. Due to the possibility of increased pandemic spread we are asking for staff to follow the proposed preparedness plan:

1. Practice appropriate infectious disease control by practicing standard precautions as well as following the organizations infectious disease protocol available in the red emergency binders in all homes.

2. Practice good hygiene by washing your hands before every shift and during every exchange with residents, cover your cough or sneeze, do not touch your eyes, ears or nose. If you touch your face, make sure that you wash your hands.

3. Practice advanced housekeeping with housekeeping guidelines provided by the organization. Clean highly utilized surfaces such as door handles, computers, light switches, fax machines, remote controls, phones, etc.

4. All visitors that are not for medically necessary reasons should be asked to postpone their visit (when possible) until the last week of April with the informed consent of the resident. Virtual visits are available upon request.

5. Community outings should be limited to only necessary public exposure and outings which are not in highly populated areas or areas where COVID-19 is known to be actively spreading. Acceptable outings might include picnics, outdoor walks, hiking, visits to nearby beaches, fishing, etc.

6. Visitors, case workers, medical professionals should be encouraged to participate in GoToMeetings (virtual meetings) whenever necessary.

7. Staff are encouraged to know their risk factor and know the risk factor of the individuals served. Our job is to not only protect ourselves but the ones we serve.

8. DON'T PANIC! Keeping calm and working through how to keep everyone safe is important. Also, remember that there is an abundance of misinformation in the world right now so it is essential to ONLY listen to credible sources such as the CDC.

9. All unnecessary public gatherings must be postponed.

10. Staff should educate residents on their risk factors and help them understand how to keep safe during this time.

11. Staff should not come to work if they feel ill or exhibit any symptoms related to COVID-19 (Fever, Cough and Shortness of Breath). If staff members experience these symptoms, it is important to contact their immediate supervisor.

12. In the event that there is a suspected case in the home, please contact the primary care provider prior to taking the individual to the office and ask for direction.

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