



Community, Work & Independence, Inc.

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January 6, 2021

Dear Families and Advocates,

We hope this finds you and your families well and managing the changed dynamics we are all facing at this point in time. We wanted to take a moment and provide you an update on what is occurring at CWI in regards to COVID-19.

As you have been notified, CWI has decided to place our Day Services, Pre-Vocational, and some Clinical Services on pause for an indefinite period of time, but minimally for a period of two weeks. At this point in time, we are grateful that we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our CWI residential settings. However, last week we were notified that three individuals from other residential agencies, who attend three of our day programs, as well as one individual from Pre-Vocational Services, had tested positive for COVID-19. In light of these developments and in consideration of the spike in confirmed cases in our area, we decided to close all of our service-based sites. We are following guidance from the respective County Departments of Health to quarantine any CWI residential settings where service recipients attended program with these identified individuals. The County Departments of Health have also required quarantine for staff who worked in the identified locations, as well as Transit drivers and monitors who may have been exposed.

We appreciate the hardship this creates for families and family care providers caring for loved ones who typically attend site-based services. We will be continually monitoring and evaluating the COVID positivity rates in our three county service area and will make a determination as to when we feel it is safe to re-open.

In terms of our overall operations in regards to COVID-19, we continue to receive and follow guidance from the local Departments of Health, the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the Governor's office. Our list of precautions includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. We are limiting visitors to CWI residences to essential visitors.
2. We are limiting the number of different staff working at CWI residential sites.
3. All staff are wearing masks as required and additional Personal Protective Equipment as needed.
4. We are conducting daily temperature checks and health screening of service recipients and staff.
5. We continue to implement universal precautions, including a regular schedule of disinfecting highly used surfaces.
6. We are sharing information and resources regarding the COVID-19 vaccine with our CWI residents and agency staff. Additional information will be forthcoming to you as well so you may be prepared when vaccination opportunities arise for service recipients who live with families and family care providers.
7. Our Senior Team conducts regular meetings to debrief on the latest information and guidance related to this crisis, and to ensure our preventative and responsive measures are up to the minute.

We continue to applaud the hard work and dedication of all of our direct support staff and managers who have worked diligently to keep our service recipients and staff safe. Please feel free to contact us with any questions/concerns: Dan Juidiciani, Division Director of Residential Services at 518-793-4700, ext. 12142; Noel Granger, Division Director of Day Services at 518-793-4700, ext. 12114; Sally Hawley, Division Director of Community and Employment Services, at 518-793-4700, ext. 12155; or Amber Coppola, Division Director of Clinical Services at 518-793-4700, 12170. Please know that the safety and welfare of the individuals we serve continues to be our top priority.

Sincerely,

Mark Donahue

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President/CEO