



Executive Director Update

Over the past few weeks, our staff and some people we support have experienced the virus first hand. As throughout our area we have seen the virus affect many people. When staff or people we support test positive for COVID-19, we implement several standard procedures that help us manage the quarantine or isolation timeframe.

Even though we experienced some very difficult days, our staff continued their dedicated, hard work to help ensure everyone recovered. We worked with the local health department and medical personnel to help protect and promote the health of everyone.

In December we were notified that the staff providing direct services in our homes were designated as frontline health workers, therefore being eligible for the Phase 1a COVID vaccination. The people living in our homes would be eligible as well. Both groups fall into the Phase 1a category. We are currently assisting staff and residents to register and attend vaccination clinics.

Vaccinations for people who live in our homes are optional. Everyone needs to provide consent as this is considered a medical procedure. Family members or other responsible adults must provide the consent if the individual is not capable of providing informed consent.

We have several educational articles and information about the vaccine on our website.

The vaccination is also optional for staff. We strongly encourage staff to review all of the educational materials to help make the best decision possible.

Due to the high prevalence of COVID infections over the past month, our day service programs have been paused. We've continued to hold virtual services whenever possible. We assess the rate of infection in the community and within the agency frequently to determine when programs will re-open.

We always take the safety of our staff and those we serve into consideration when determining our next steps. We also recognize that ongoing and consistent opportunities for those we support to interact with others and the in the community are vitally important.

As we enter into 2021 we all have hope that our experiences during 2020 will remain the past. We look forward having an end to the pandemic and a brighter future for all.

Donna Saskowski
Executive Director