



Dear Edwards Center Families,

I hope you are all managing to stay well during these most trying times.

Following are a few updates:

- Per Department of Human Services Policy Transmittal APD-PT-20-028, we can no longer allow social visits inside our group homes. While families can still pick up their loved ones and enjoy visits away from the group homes, we encourage you to consider the risks to yourselves, your loved ones and the staff that support them.
- Our CLS programs (Aloha and ECM) have been temporarily suspended. Participants from these programs are mostly staying home. Some displaced staff from these programs have transferred into open residential shifts; others are using accrued time off. To the extent possible we are keeping qualified displaced staff in our relief pool, prepared to backfill vacancies in our homes.
- Most of our non-direct care staff continue to work from home and are prepared to backfill residential shifts in the event primary staff become ill.
- I've asked our Executive Team to reach out to each of our managers daily. I've also asked our Residential Managers to reach out to each of our families frequently to keep them up to date.
- Many of our staff are, themselves, members of high-risk groups. I've asked them to consider whether this is the best time to remain at work. We are leaving the final decision up to each individual. As care-givers, it's easy to forget about our own needs. I'm strongly encouraging our team not to forget about self-care. I would extend that same reminder to each of you.
- Most of our direct care staff are stepping up in a manner that makes me so proud to be associated with this amazing group of professionals! I assure you, they are committed to the people in their care.

It seems like things are changing almost literally by the hour. I know there remain many, many unanswered questions. I will continue to provide updates as we have them. In the meantime, please don't be reluctant to reach out.

Finally, I would remind you that we will get through this. Strength and comfort can be found in the knowledge that we're all in it together. I'm so grateful for each of you!

Very sincerely yours,

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