



Dear Edwards Center families,

I hope you're all staying well!

Please know that our absolute number one priority is the safety and health of our residents, participants and staff. With each decision we make, the very first thing we do is consider the impact to those people. These are some pretty tough times, and we want to keep you informed of our current practices and efforts. Since this is such a dynamic situation, please bear with us – much of what I've written here may be subject to change at any time!

**Family Visits:**

We love that our residents' and participants' families are so involved in their lives. This is a big part of what keeps their lives rich and engaged. During this COVID-19 crisis, however, we ask that you consider alternative ways to stay involved with your loved ones who reside in our homes. While we won't turn away a healthy family member, we will encourage you to consider the use of technology for your visits. For example, you might consider using Facetime or Skype. Our staff can help you with that as necessary.

**Sanitizing Practices:**

In addition to our extensive routine sanitizing schedule, we have adopted sanitizing practices recommended by our health care authorities. This includes sanitizing all touch surfaces multiple times throughout any given day, including before and after contact.

**CLS (Day Supports):**

Oregon's Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS) issued a new set of temporary policies that significantly restrict our day activities. Effective Wednesday March 18, ECM and Aloha will offer only very limited supports to a very small group of participants. Each group will be supported by two staff. These policy restrictions are currently scheduled to expire on 5/31/2020; however, during a related ODDS conference call this morning, it was established that this date is not firm, and may be extended. We hope to reestablish our typical capacity as soon as it is safe to do so.

**Employment:**

In Employment, all volunteer activities have been suspended. Some people in Small Group settings have been displaced. We have seen some supported workers temporarily laid off, while others are still working. We will continue to support people as long as they remain employed.

**Alternative Work Schedules:**

I have asked that all staff not involved in direct care consider alternatives to their typical schedules. For most, this means working from home. This will help prevent the spread of infection and help keep those team members healthy in the event they need to backfill residential shifts.

I recognize much of what I'm sharing here is tough to read. As in any crisis, we will also see people shine. Let me assure you, we are seeing people shine! I remain so proud of our team. We will continue to update you as things progress.

Very respectfully,

**Allen**

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