



# My Brothers' Keeper

"Self-Direction Leading to Full Potential"

Good afternoon folks,

I know you're all aware about the spread of Covid-19 in Minnesota. Although this is a serious illness there is no need to panic, the vast majority of people that contract Covid-19 have mild symptoms and make a full recovery. Let's make sure we do our part in taking preventative measures to reduce the risk for us and the individuals we support. If we all play a part in this, I'm sure it will make a difference.

- 1) Promote hand washing, hand sanitizing and follow basic infectious control procedures. Keep surfaces clean; Pay extra attention to commonly touched surfaces. Door knobs, light switches, keys, hand railings, lock boxes, keyboard/mouse, cabinet and fridge/freezer handles etc..
- 2) Anyone that does any of the shopping for the houses please buy extra supplies using reasonable discretion in case they advise shelter in place. Any "extra supplies" will not count against your house budget. These items should include however not limited to: Food supplies with a long shelf life, hand soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectants, wipes, other basic cleaning products, standing order medications (Please bring the sheet with while shopping), pay extra attention to ibuprofen, acetaminophen, cold and flu related meds.
- 3) Take care of yourselves and show up for your shifts so we can continue to take care of our guys. If you have cold/flu like symptoms and a fever, please work closely with your coworkers and supervisor to get your shift(s) covered.
- 4) If you are diagnosed with Covid-19 or are aware that you have been exposed to Covid-19, we ask that you report it to us immediately and again please work closely with your coworkers and Supervisor to get your shift(s) covered, and stay home
- 5) If one of the individuals we support should contract or is aware that they have been exposed to Covid-19, we've ordered PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) that includes face shield masks and gowns for all of the group homes that should be here soon. We will disperse them out as soon as we receive them. These will need to be changed out and thrown away anytime you have contact with one of the individuals we support before we start cares with any of the other individuals living in the home to help eliminate cross contamination if someone were to be infected.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) & The World Health Organization (WHO) are advising us to continue working with the individuals we support if one or more are showing symptoms of Covid-19 **ONLY WHILE WEARING PPE.**

This is certainly becoming a big deal now that it's so close to us. Please make sure you clean and sanitize, clean and sanitize, clean and sanitize. We cannot stress this enough. If we utilize these preventative measures hopefully we can get through the season without becoming infected.

Please see the attached Covid-19 facts sheet below.

If you have any questions, give me a call. Thank you all for everything you continue to do day in and day out!

TJ



# *My Brothers' Keeper*

Hey there again folks,

Follow up from our S-comm last week about Covid-19. The Supervisors and are meeting tomorrow to discuss what the next couple of months may look like. I expect to discuss scheduling, things like block schedules and single staffing. Your Supervisor will bring the information we discuss back to the home you work in.

As you've heard all schools are closed for 2 weeks and in time the possibility of daycare's, restaurants, bars, factories, offices, etc. In many cases people that work in a lot of these industries can work from home or are sent home with no pay or benefits. Health care does not have the option to stop because of a virus. The individuals in all Group Homes, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Homes, Hospitals, Clinics, etc. depend on us to live each day and are lucky to have dedicated people like you in their lives. Imagine how grateful these individuals and their families must feel knowing they are at home in a safe environment with you. We could not get through times like these without your dedication and courage.

Along with appropriately navigating our schedules a bit for the time being to make sure we have the least amount of exposure to Covid-19 we want to make sure you are practicing social distancing. This virus is airborne, and they are recommending you try your best to distance yourselves 6 feet away from anyone at any given time unless necessary. Of course, we know that providing support to the individuals comes with proximity & physical touch cares. We still need to complete daily tasks, hygiene and medication administration and you will be alongside the individuals at times, do your best in every other aspect to keep your distance.

The day program in Arlington has closed and I'm almost certain the Rosemount, Chaska, & Shakopee sites aren't too far behind. In order to continue doing our part in helping the spread of Covid-19, It is important that the individuals we support are making educated decisions on if it is necessary to go to work at the day program or stay home. We will cancel all near future activities and limit personal needs shopping days until further notice, please make sure the individuals stock up on personal needs items if they're able to the next time they're out. This too will pass in time, and the more people we can protect from the virus the sooner it will be gone.

If you have any questions on this, please give me a call.  
TJ