



Supporting Individuals with Disabilities  
SINCE 1954

## **COVID-19 Update: 12:00PM on Thursday, March 19, 2020**

We want to assure you that we take the health and well-being of our community, participants, and employees very seriously. Like you, we're closely monitoring the quickly developing effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

LARC continues to have no known cases of employees, program participants or visitors who have personally been exposed to or are exhibiting symptoms consistent with those of COVID-19 yet, we realize the potential exists. The decision to temporarily close our Adult Day Training program until March 30th is based on several factors, including our practice to follow the procedures of the Lee County School District, statewide and national efforts to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 and the mission we have to support our program participants and their families. Our day program facilities are currently closed, and only very limited staff access is being granted for business-critical activities; others are working remotely. Those who enter the facility are required to disinfect all surfaces with which they come in contact prior to leaving the facility.

LARC is aware that The Lee County School District has extended school closures until April 15th. Currently, we have yet to decide whether to extend our closure date beyond March 30th. We will remain vigilant and focused in our effort to keep everyone safe and healthy during this difficult time and provide updates via FaceBook, our website ([www.larcleecounty.org](http://www.larcleecounty.org)) and personal communication, such as email, texts and phone calls. Our staff is keeping in close contact with our program participants and their families so we can be attentive to their needs and well-being.

LARC's group homes are operational and our Community Support Services team continues to serve participants who live independently in the community, ensuring appropriate limitations on community activities, visitors, social distancing and that health and safety needs are being met.

We know how vital our services are to the community at large, and we are disappointed that we have had to suspend day training services at this time. As soon as it is prudent to do so, we look forward to resuming our Adult Day Training program and welcoming our participants back on campus.

If you are looking for ways to help your community combat the spreading coronavirus outbreak, maintain social distancing. Even if you're not under a shelter-in-place order, you can take steps to minimize your likelihood of catching the coronavirus or spreading it to others. Learn how here: <http://tiny.ucsf.edu/Ms8IWQ>.

While we understand social distancing and shelter-in-place advice is difficult to follow, it's life-saving – not necessarily for you if you are 30 years old and healthy, but maybe for your parents, citizens with underlying health issues, special needs or compromised immune systems and certainly for your grandparents.

Should any LARC employee, program participant or LARC visitor come in personal contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or personally begin exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, we ask that you follow the CDC guidelines and protocols and report this information to your LARC supervisor and/or LARC management immediately at 239-334-6285 x231. Please leave a message; messages are being retrieved daily.

We are all in this together. We will continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation and will follow guidance from public health officials and government agencies, so we can continue to support our participants, their families and our community and we ask you to do the same.

For more information about COVID-19 and what you can do to keep healthy and safe, visit the Centers for Disease Control at [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov).

Stay safe!

Best regards,

Kevin Lewis, Executive Director