



COVID-19 Update: 5:00PM on Friday, June 26, 2020

As this week comes to a close, we celebrate the first full week of resuming day training programs for a small number of participants at both our campuses. With new processes in place, most participants and all staff are wearing masks, we are practicing social distancing when possible, and we are making every effort to mitigate the risk of the COVID-19 virus for all involved. To date, we do not know of any participants who have been exposed to or infected by the virus, though with the number of positive cases increasing, there is risk.

I wish the community could see how well most participants (and all staff) have adapted to wearing a mask and social distancing, along with increased hand hygiene and cleaning practices. All are doing what is required and necessary to mitigate the risk of the COVID-19 virus to the best of their abilities – and we applaud them all. If we could get the rest of our community to adopt similar practices, we could change current trends in our community and state.

Our group home residents and those we support living independently in the community continue to do well as they embrace the new lifestyle. Staff in all settings continue to monitor their own health in addition to monitoring those they serve.

We have recently learned of two staff members who have been exposed to COVID-19 in a setting other than work. Based on our protocols that are designed with safety as our guiding imperative, they are at home self-isolating and will require negative test results to return to work. We follow Department of Health guidelines in addressing individuals who may be at risk of exposure and continue our facility cleaning and sanitizing processes.

As LARC is now in our 66th year of providing services, we are committed to being cautious and playful and are exploring all of the ways to make LARC the best place possible to learn, work, and serve in a world where the risk of COVID-19 exists. Sometimes that will mean providing services remotely over Zoom or other platforms, or it may involve social distancing and mask wearing when providing face to face services in other settings.

We encourage all families and caretakers to do what is necessary to support and help keep themselves, their loved ones and those they care for safe during this most challenging time – what we do each and every day matters, please stay safe.

Best Regards,

Kevin Lewis
Executive Director

*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](https://www.cdc.gov).