

EP!C Families, Guardians, and Advocates,

3-20-2020

The statement, "What a difference a day makes," has a whole new meaning nowadays. I hope all of you are doing well and are beginning to settle into the new normal.

Today Governor Pritzker has called a Stay-In-Place Order, which will not affect EP!C's ability to do business as usual. EP!C is classified as a Health Care Organization, and as such EP!C staff are considered "Essential Staff." That being said, DHS has sent us a template that we are personalizing for each staff person verifying they are an essential staff for EP!C, so there should not be any interference with our staff coming and going to work during this Order.

Last week, emails from the Division of Developmental Disabilities/Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) began sending out what started as recommendations but soon turned to directives regarding how licensed providers were to address the threat of the Coronavirus to the people we served. At the first of the week, we put the revised versions of our Infection Control policies and additional documentation to monitor implementation.

I am pleased to report this week has gone very smoothly. Our Day Training and Workshop DSPs (Direct Support Professionals) have supported our people at our residential homes instead of at Townline, and the people that live in Host Home settings are also staying home unless they are employed in the community.

As this crisis goes on, we plan to remain infection-free, and one of the ways we are doing this is our new requirement when any staff enters one of our sites. We require all staff document and sign their answers to three questions before entering all our sites, including Townline. (1) Within the last 14 days, have you traveled to another country? (2) Have you had contact with any person who is showing symptoms for the COVID-19 within the last 14 days, or with anyone with known COVID-19? (3) Do you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection (e.g., cough, fever, or shortness of breath)? If they answer yes to 1 and or 2, the On-Call RN is called to follow up with additional questions to determine if the staff person is eligible to work. If the person answers yes to 3, they are not eligible to work and instructed to return home. HR will follow up with the staff person on the return to work criteria. We are following all the CDC and Health Department guidelines.



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We also have developed three layers of backup staff if/when we experience a drop in available frontline staff. These layers include everyone at EP!C. Many of those are layers 2, 3, and 4 are already working from home to reduce exposure and assure we have a reliable backup if needed.

We have also updated our isolation protocol to include the most up to date recommendations from the CDC, WHO, and Peoria Health Department.

During this time if you need to see an individual at EP!C or have questions, please feel free to call

Residential Services	Stephanie Buhs	(309)635-9432
Educational Services	Alex Quillen	(309)265-4178
Employment Services	Katie Murphy	(309)369-0461

EP!C will continue to do its best to provide a safe and healthy environment for all the people we serve, our staff, and be a respectful and cooperative member of our community. As the situation evolves and may change as circumstances change, we will keep you informed.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding,  
Kim Cornwell, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Cornwell', is written below the typed name.