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EPIC Families, Guardians, and Advocates,

4-10-2020

I hope this letter finds all of you safe and healthy. My letter Tuesday informed you of the resident that tested positive the virus. I am pleased to report the resident is doing well and is not running a temperature. We did take another resident at the same home to be tested earlier this week. We found out this morning they also tested positive. Fortunately, they are only running a low grade temperature and continues to display no other symptoms.

We are taking the temperature of everyone in the house twice a day then reporting the readings to the Peoria Health Department. The two staff who are living in the home for the next couple of weeks are doing well. We are bringing dinner to the house nightly along with anything they need to reduce the day to day pressure of living in the home and supporting the needs of the residents. To end the weekend with good news, no one else in our other group homes are showing any symptoms of the infection. We are very aware we must stay focused since this crisis is not over, and things can change in a heartbeat.

We continue to balance reducing possible cross exposure from staff working at various sites with our need to fill open shifts. As you all know, we continue to have a staffing shortage. Therefore, we are trying the Live-In model with four additional homes to reduce cross-contamination. Starting Tuesday, we assigned all frontline staff to work at one site only. To do this, we had to pull staff from the four more homes (total of 6 homes using a Live-In Model) and turn them into a Live-In Model. I want to make clear there's no one at the four sites that has any symptoms of the virus. We are trying this model to **reduce exposure** to the residents and all of our frontline staff supporting all of our group homes.

Additional information I would like to share is that last week for the duration of the pandemic we raised the wages of our frontline staff by \$2.00 per hour (retro back to 3/17) to acknowledge their dedication and commitment to the people we serve.

If you would like to help us demonstrate our appreciation for our dedicated staff, you can go to our website under Wish List or in the Family Portal for ideas on what the homes need as they work to provide meaningful activities for the residents. You can also coordinate with Stephany Buhs on how to send a thank-you note to the staff supporting your loved one.

Remember at any time you have questions please feel free to call:

Stephany Buhs	Senior Director of Residential Services	(309) 635-9432
Doris Hayes	Chief Operating Officer	(309) 689-3662
Kim Cornwell	Chief Executive Officer	(309) 689-3624

EP!C will continue to do its best to provide a safe and healthy environment for all the people we serve, our staff, and to be a respectful and cooperative member of our community. We will keep you informed as changes occur.

Take care,

Kim Cornwell, CEO

