Opportunity Partners Update
March 13, 2020

With the rapidly changing situation concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to community mitigation measures outlined by the Minnesota Department of Health today, we want to update you. In addition to passing out letters at our day locations, we are also emailing this information to contacts who have provided us emails, and we will post all updates on our website at opportunities.org.

Opportunity Partners is implementing a number of measures immediately:

• In our various settings, we are in the process of determining how we can best comply with the social distancing guidelines outlined by the Minnesota Department of Health of within 6 feet for 10 minutes or more. This will result in some changes to be announced of our work and class structures.

• OP group homes will be screening individuals for illness before they leave their homes; we ask that families and others do the same where possible. We will be communicating with our peer residential providers in this regard.

• We have increased our sanitization of surfaces and are implementing handwashing breaks every two hours at our day service locations. Residential sites are emphasizing the appropriate health and safety protocols at our group homes and residential locations.

• Each location has a designated safe waiting area for individuals who display symptoms and are waiting transportation home or for medical care.

• We are working with our staff to implement appropriate social distancing measures and class modifications when possible, including avoiding outings to highly traveled venues such as Mall of America, etc., until further notice.

• All day service locations are being advised to limit visitors to our sites; we will postpone tours, in-person planning meetings and vendor visits – utilizing technology for meetings when possible.

• We are asking that staff and individuals served who display symptoms remain home for 14 days or until cleared by their physician.
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• Our Day and Employment services team will support the decisions of high risk individuals with complicated medical conditions who choose to remain home at this time.

• In addition, our Residential and Community Living team will support and decisions of individuals/families/guardians who choose to remain home rather than attend day services. We will work to adjust staffing levels as needed.

• We are in close communication with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, our trade associations ARRM and MOHR, and our peer providers regarding service delivery, and we will continue to follow guidelines and/or mandates established by the Minnesota Department of Health and other health agencies.

• If you do not currently receive emails from Opportunity Partners and you would like to, please send your email to info@opportunities.org to be added.

Please note that our situation may change quickly. We will continue to monitor updates and will provide any new information as needed. We remain committed to our mission of serving individuals throughout all of our programs, and we appreciate everyone's support during this time. We also want to remind everyone to take care of yourself and your families, recognizing that everyone is impacted by this in some way. Please reach out to your Opportunity Partners contact person if you have any specific questions or concerns. Thank you.