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## Opportunity Partners Update

### March 15, 2020



We have been closely monitoring the COVID-19 developments over the weekend and want to update you with our latest information. As you have likely seen, Gov. Tim Walz has ordered for Minnesota schools to close by Wednesday, March 18 for at least eight days, and health officials have confirmed the first cases of community spread of COVID-19 in our state.

Following the lead of the State of Minnesota regarding school closures, Opportunity Partners' day locations will be open as regularly scheduled on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17 to allow our staff, individuals served, and their families and guardians time to plan for a likely extended closure of our day programs. As you know, we serve diverse individuals with a wide variety of needs, and we want to ensure people have the support they need for when our day services close for a time. We want to do what is best for the people we serve, our staff and our community, and we will be taking guidance from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Department of Health, and our disability trade associations in next steps.

Note: we are urging individuals we serve who have complex medical conditions to remain home effective immediately and not attend day services. Additionally, we will support the decisions of any families/guardians who choose to have their loved ones stay home at this time.

Please note that our situation may change quickly, and we will provide updates as soon as we can. All updates will also be posted here on the OP website.

#### **As was communicated on Friday, OP is implementing a number of measures now in our locations:**

- 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 have increased our sanitization of surfaces and hand washing breaks at our locations.
  - Each location has a designated safe waiting area for individuals who display symptoms and are waiting transportation home or for medical care.
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*March 15, 2020 Update Continued*

- We are working with our staff and people we serve to implement appropriate social distancing measures as recommended.
- We are limiting visitors to our sites; we are postponing tours and in-person planning meetings and vendor visits – utilizing technology for meetings when possible.
- We are asking that staff and individuals served who are sick to remain home for 14 days or until cleared by their physician.

We will continue to take guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and other leading agencies. Although this is an uncertain time for all of us, we know that the people we serve could not have a more dedicated, mission-focused team of employees providing care and support.

Please reach out to your OP staff person if you have any specific concerns, and we will continue to update you as needed.

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