



Important Update re: COVID-19

from Gil Fonger, President & CEO

May 24, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

- **COVID-19 SYMPTOM-LIKE CLUSTER AT WASMOND CENTER**

This weekend, we received confirmation that three staff members at the Marklund Wasmond Center in Elgin—all PSPs—are reporting COVID-like symptoms. Two have been tested and are awaiting results; the third is following up with a physician. We are continuing with our regimen of screening staff and residents at every shift change. In addition, MWC administration requires staff to self-screen mid-shift and report to the nurse if they have any change in temperature or new onset of symptoms.

Employees at all facilities are still required to wear appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment).

- **RESIDENTS CLEAR**

We are pleased to note we currently have no residential COVID cases at any of the Marklund locations.

- **TODAY'S CHICAGO TRIBUNE ARTICLE**

Anyone who saw the front page article in today's *Chicago Tribune* may be concerned of COVID-19 virus running rampant in facilities that serve individuals with developmental disabilities. That article focused specifically on long-term care facilities run by the State of Illinois. We have been fortunate so far at Marklund and feel that the precautions that we took early in the pandemic crisis of keeping residents at home, restricting volunteers and visitors, screening all staff, modifying our absence policy, and having non-essential staff to work remotely has helped keep our positive cases to a minimum. Our staff continues to assist residents in connecting with families and friends via FaceTime and Zoom apps, and have worked very hard making sure our residents stay busy and happy—and most importantly, safe.

Have a blessed Memorial Day holiday.

GILBERT FONGER, President & CEO

Questions for Gil Fonger? Call him at 630-593-5476 or email gfonger@marklund.org.