



Important Update re: COVID-19

from Gil Fonger, President & CEO

May 15, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

- **Wasmond Center Employee Tests Positive for COVID**

I was informed today that another Wasmond Center employee has tested positive for COVID-19. Her last shift was Saturday, May 9. She had not worked directly with the other staff member who was diagnosed 10 days ago.

Following protocol, we have notified the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Cook County Health Department (CCHD), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and Bureau of Accreditation, Licensure and Certification (BALC), a division of DHS, and will keep them updated as required.

The staff member had called off of her previous shift due to the onset of symptoms. Out of an abundance of caution, our **Modified Absence Policy** gives staff the opportunity to use their own best judgement when beginning to feel ill and call off of work. Several employees throughout the organization have used this option to stay home when experiencing symptoms, and have either been told by physicians to get tested or just self-quarantine. All other direct care staff who have been tested have had negative results to date.

- **Tracking COVID-19 Symptoms**

As per a new requirement of IDPH, we have begun tracking any cluster of new onset of COVID-like symptoms for staff or residents that occur within 72 hours of each other. If anything becomes of notable concern, I will provide you with an update.

- **On-going Mask and Screening Requirements**

Be assured: Marklund is continuing to require that **ALL staff** wear masks at all times while on Marklund property.

We are continuing to monitor all employees and residents at every shift. At the present time, we have no residents diagnosed with the virus.

I am very impressed with our stellar staff who have had to endure so much more physically, psychologically and emotionally over the past 7 weeks. The teamwork and passion for caring for the Marklund residents is so evident and I couldn't be prouder.

I will continue to update everyone as more information becomes available.

Have a peaceful weekend.

GILBERT FONGER, President & CEO

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