



## Important Update re: COVID-19

*from Gil Fonger, President & CEO*

Aug. 25, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

- **UPDATES MADE TO MODIFIED TEMPORARY ABSENCE POLICY**

All staff received a the updated Modified Temporary Absence Policy today via email. Please review the policy in its entirety for important changes. Highlights include the following:

- ◆ **Implementing Bonuses for Essential Staff**

**Hyde, Philip and Wasmond Center Essential Staff** listed below will receive a 10% bonus for hours worked from 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31: PSPs\* (this includes full-time, part-time, IHR and Therapy Aides and other positions who are picking up as PSPs), TAAs, Nurses, Housekeepers, Houseparents, Laundry, and Dietary. \*Please note that salaried staff who pick up essential staff shifts are not eligible for the 10% bonus. In addition, **Day School Essential Staff** listed below will receive a 10% bonus while working in the Multi-Needs classes and a 20% bonus while working in Life-Skills classes for hours worked from 11 p.m. Saturday, August 22 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31: Paraprofessionals, Teachers, Nurse, BCBA, Instructional Coaches, RBT, Housekeepers, and Dietary.

- ◆ **Mandatory Quarantine for Travelers—including 24-hour trips**

To protect our residents and staff, we are implementing a **mandatory 14-day quarantine period for staff who will be returning from traveling for 24-hours or more to any state determined to be a hot spot for COVID-19.**

**Any parents or guardians** who plan on visiting with our residents will also be required to follow this policy by waiting 14 days after returning from a high-risk state before coming to a Marklund site to see their loved ones.

- **ADDITIONAL PPE TO BE PROVIDED**

Direct care staff will be provided with new PPE (personal protective equipment) including goggles and/or face shields. Direct care staff will be required to wear the equipment when providing personal care or when in close proximity (6 feet or less) for a prolonged period of time of 15 minutes or more.

- **UNDERSTANDING THE PHASES**

While Illinois remains in **Phase 4** of the governor's Restore Illinois plan, All of our residential facilities are currently in **Phase 2** of the State of Illinois Updated Interim Guidance for Nursing Homes and Other Long-Term Care Facilities and Programs.

Progressing or regressing through the Phases will involve many different factors, including **case status in the facility, case status in the community, staffing levels, personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supply usage and a testing plan and response strategy.** Changes in any of these factors could mandate a return to a stricter Phase with more stringent mitigation efforts. The State of Illinois can impose new restrictions/recommendations on facilities based on community virus metrics – this could include temporary stricter visitation, dining and activity policies.

- **A FEW CHANGES OF NOTE:**

Guidance for Phase 2 will not change much in terms of what we are currently doing at our facilities; however there are a few things that will impact parents and guardians:

- ⇒ While two people can visit a resident at the same time, **they must be from the same household.** Therefore any parents, guardian, family or other approved visitors that do not live in the same household will need to schedule separate visit times moving forward.
- ⇒ **All visitors must additionally sign in with their name, address, and phone number when visiting (and email if available).** This is to assist in contact tracing effort should there be a potential exposure at the facility.
- ⇒ **Visitors also must contact the facility Administrator immediately if they have an onset of any COVID symptoms in the three days following a visit to Marklund.** The list of current symptoms can be found on the CDC website.
- ⇒ Unfortunately, we are still unable to offer indoor visitation at this time. **Indoor visitation will be allowed starting in Phase 3,** although outdoor visitation will remain the primary means of visiting our residents as it offers the safest environment both for our residents and our visitors.

Marklund will communicate with all parents and guardians any time we will be moving forward or backward a phase, or have any additional mitigations imposed by the state.

If you have any questions regarding the points addressed in this update please feel free to contact me at [gfonger@marklund.org](mailto:gfonger@marklund.org) or at 630-593-5476.

Regards,

**GILBERT FONGER, President & CEO**