



STATUS UPDATE – 31 MARCH 2019

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Indiana and, more specifically the counties in which we provide services, continues to increase. I am very happy to report that we continue to have no signs of COVID-19 among any of our clients at this time. This is a result of the care and adherence to safety procedures followed by all LIFEDesigns staff in Group Homes and Supported Living locations. Prevention procedures recommended by the CDC and ISDH continue to be revised, and we follow these changes and modify our procedures when necessary. Some changes already or soon to be in place include:

- Active monitoring of staff in group homes and supported living settings with more than one resident for any signs of possible COVID-19 infection, including having temperature taken and reported to Team Manager upon arrival work;
- Identification of waiver/supported living clients who fall into the high-risk category, using standards set by the CDC;
- Active monitoring of all clients in group homes and waiver clients in the high-risk category which includes recording clients' temperature twice daily;
- Use of masks by staff in group homes while on duty;
- Face shields are being provided for use by staff working with high-risk clients;

Our Director of Nursing has developed specific procedures that will be implemented immediately if any client develops symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, including isolation and increased monitoring. We began limiting travel and outside contact for clients and staff prior to the Governor's "stay at home" order and started increasing our supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) at that time. We are not exempt from the worldwide shortage of protective masks, but we are ordering more weekly and have ongoing deliveries scheduled.

All members of the LIFEDesigns Team are professionals dedicated to the care and protection of those we serve, and this is demonstrated every day as staff continue supporting our agency and our clients. We are also happy to report that we continue to have individuals joining our team as Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) throughout this challenging period, many with experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and referred by current staff.

This is a challenging time for everyone – clients, family members, guardians, other providers, our staff, and our staff's families. With the support and understanding of all, and the flexibility to adapt to the changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we will continue to take steps necessary to protect our clients' health while providing the highest level of service possible.