



March 30, 2021

An open letter to the LIFE Designs Community about COVID precautions

After just over a year of having our lives significantly changed by the appearance of SARS-Cov-2 virus, responsible for COVID-19, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. The efficacy of vaccines has been demonstrated and they are becoming more available. The goal of making vaccination an option for every adult before the end of May seems realistic now.

But seeing the light at the end of the tunnel is not the same as being out of the tunnel! Think of it – you are driving through a long, dark tunnel. You’ve turned on your headlights so you can see the road and potential hazards and remain safe. In the distance you spot daylight and know you are approaching the end of the dark tunnel BUT you are still in the tunnel and it is still dark. Do you keep your lights on until you are out of the tunnel, or do you turn them off because you can see light ahead and risk hitting something in the dark?

Our situation with COVID is exactly like this. We instituted use of PPE, social distancing, and active monitoring along with quarantine periods to protect all from the COVID hazard. There are now effective vaccines available, vaccination of the public is in progress, and we can see a future with COVID reasonably controlled (we spy the light at the end of the COVID tunnel). But we’re not out of the tunnel yet. We need to continue to be aware of potential hazards and threats to protect our clients, our teammates, our families, and ourselves. We continue moving forward with our eyes open and our headlights (PPE) on, even though we see those with no headlights or taillights.

Others are just as careful as we are. The CDC has warned that letting our guard down too quickly will lead to another COVID surge. The President has appealed to governors of every state to maintain or reinstitute statewide mask mandates and to be careful when expanding business operations. But just like our tunnel example, not everyone is going to be as careful as we are. Several governors (including ours) have lifted statewide mask mandates and moved to fully opening businesses. Many people spent Spring Break on beaches or at clubs and parties. And we are already seeing the results of that – rates of positive COVID testing have begun to rise again, and there is every indication that this is just the start of the new surge the CDC has warned us about.

It’s been a long and challenging year for us all. No one likes wearing a mask all day every day, or not going out to eat or socialize. At LIFE Designs it goes against our core belief of active community engagement for all. But our concern for the health and safety of those we serve and work with every day comes first. We keep our headlights on when it’s dark to protect ourselves and others. Our COVID policies remain in place -- practice good hand hygiene; wear PPE at all times while on duty; take and record temperatures of everyone (staff and others) coming into any residential location; contact Renee (Director of Nursing) immediately – before coming to work - if you have known contact with anyone who tests positive for COVID or if you have any COVID-type symptoms.

Thank you for your understanding, your continued support for our community, and your dedication to our clients and their welfare.

Sincerely,

Russell J. Bonanno, M.Ed.
Chief Executive Officer