



June 17, 2020

To the people we serve, family members, and service providers:

As we write to update you on Dungarvin's continued response to COVID-19, we find our communities grappling with how to navigate everchanging social constructs. We hope this letter finds you safe and you are accessing strength and support within your families, friends, and neighbors.

Since our last update on May 20, 2020, the Minnesota Department of Health continues to report steady increases in the number of persons served and staff testing positive for COVID-19 in group home and adult foster care settings. We continue to diligently monitor and manage the COVID-19 situation to do our part to flatten the curve.

As Minnesota begins to turn the dial, we remain cautious. Each of us has a different experience with COVID-19, and a different comfort level with our communities reopening. While Dungarvin continues to believe restricting entry to program settings and minimizing community access is the most effective means of reducing the spread of COVID-19, we acknowledge the desire to turn the dial. However, we wish to do so in a safe manner. We ask for your support and collaboration so together we can equally support the choice of those individuals who are ready to venture out, while protecting those who wish or need to remain at home.

We will continue to offer creative ways to access the community to minimize contact. In the days to come, if your loved one has the need or desire to access the community, we ask you reach out to us to begin a collaborative dialogue. We are committed to having open and honest discussions about the risks of the choices individuals are making, and mitigation steps to reduce exposure while in the community and upon returning home.

Dungarvin remains dedicated to its responsibility to protect the people we support. To aid in this effort, we will continue our practice of not having visitors enter the group homes. Our group homes, for the most part, do not have lobbies or other areas which are separate enough to promote social distance.

We continue to emphasize universal precautions in our homes. We instruct our staff to stay home if they are not feeling well, and we continue health screening protocols upon staff's arrival to their shifts. Staff are committed to performing infection control strategies, such as cleaning and sanitizing, to mitigate the spread of the virus. Personal protective equipment continues to be a priority for staff and your loved ones. If we should need to access the community, we are wearing face coverings, using hand sanitizer, and practicing social distancing.

We appreciate your continued patience and respectful support of our policies as we respond to this pandemic. We acknowledge this has been a challenge of an unprecedented nature and we are grateful for your understanding. Please feel free to contact the supervisor of your program if you should have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

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