March 3, 2020

To the Entire Groden Community,

As you may be aware, The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the MA Department of Public Health have identified presumptive positive cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Like the rest of our community, we continue to closely follow this story as it evolves and we remain in constant communication with health agencies and government officials. We recognize that it is troubling to hear that it has reached our state, and wanted to reach out and share with you what we are doing as an agency to protect our clients, staff and community.

For the immediate future we will follow government agency leads and ask that every community member play their part in preventing the spread of illness. As an Agency and as a Rhode Island community, our health and wellness depends on everyone following these guidelines.

We ask with urgency that everyone follow the Center for Disease Control’s recommendations on avoiding infection and preventing others from contracting infectious diseases. This includes:

- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water. If you do not have access to soap or water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Following other good social hygiene practices as noted on the attached flyer.
- Getting a flu shot. It is not too late, and can keep you healthy and make it less likely that you will need to access emergency care if you get the flu.
- Staying home if you are sick. Stay home until your temperature is below 100.0F for twenty-four hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- If you or a family member should become sick and symptoms are getting worse, contact your primary care provider.
- We ask that you also keep your Groden clinical team aware of any potential health concerns in your home.
- Staying up to date on government travel guidance and other updates at www.health.ri.gov, www.cdc.gov and www.who.org
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Please know that we will look all the agencies mentioned above for recommendations on how agencies should react as COVID-19 news evolves. These recommendations do introduce the possibility of a temporary program closure. While any decision on that level would be made under advisement of an evidence-based, data-driven authority like the CDC or the Rhode Island Department of Health, we ask in advance for your cooperation as we prepare operational contingency plans.

Thank you so much for your patience as we work with all of our clients, staff and our families to stay healthy. We will continue to keep you posted.

Take Care,

Patricia Fiske
Director of Nursing

Michael L. Pearis
Director of Administration