



Lifetime Assistance Inc.

COVID-19 UPDATES 12/18/2020

2020 and the COVID pandemic has been one of the most challenging and difficult years to endure as a community and country. We at Lifetime Assistance understand on many levels the impact of this pandemic. Each and every one of you and each and every one of us all has a unique situation, perspective and opinion regarding COVID and what it has brought into or taken away from our lives. We have all sacrificed on many fronts while doing our best to keep people as safe as we can.

The recent decision to suspend short term home visits was not an easy one to make. The significant increase in community spread was a factor as well as several individuals being exposed on home visits, in addition to the post-Thanksgiving surge. As we have learned 74% of the recent increase in virus spread is due to informal family gatherings. Subsequently, we are all encouraged to spend the holidays with only those we reside with. In your own home you may have a false sense of safety around close family even if they don't live with you. COVID is not visible and you never know if you or others were exposed at work or at a store or essentially anywhere else. In your home people might not be wearing masks and are having meals together, all the things that families do together striving for those moments to return to normalcy. Although very understandable this comes with risk and is a source of virus spread. People without symptoms can spread the virus 48 hours before developing symptoms.

The holiday season is upon us and a normally joyous occasion does not have the same traditions and feelings as expected. When bringing gatherings of people together this increases the risk. As has been reported by the Department of Health, Thanksgiving gatherings caused a COVID surge that has significantly impacted the community. We realize the holidays are especially important to many and we also acknowledge this is not a business as usual year.

People with disabilities are at a higher risk of complications from COVID-19. It should be apparent why this is so concerning and why we have the need to limit exposure to the extent that we can. Lifetime staff have been trained to follow precautions, they are screened for temperature and symptoms before coming into work and they are required to wear masks while at work.

When a person who lives in a home operated by Lifetime has tested positive, depending on the situation, we will likely isolate in place versus off site. Many factors are considered and in most cases it is just not possible to move them. Their staff will receive specific training, enhanced personal protective equipment (PPE) and increased nursing support during this time. All people who live in the home are monitored closely, masks are encouraged and social distancing to the extent possible for all.

In this challenging and difficult time, we want to assure you the dedication of the Lifetime team has been extraordinary. Our team has demonstrated their caring and commitment daily throughout this pandemic, many working around the clock and behind the scenes tirelessly in ways not visibly apparent. This has been a long, stressful and exhausting road that we all continue to travel. We hope knowing this provides some comfort.

2021 will bring the opportunity for vaccination, this information is changing daily. When we have solid information to share, we will communicate this to you. We do know there will be consents to obtain.

We appreciate and value the people we support, our staff and families. We wish you all health, hope, strength, and happiness for 2021.

Debra Argus

Senior Vice President, Health Services