

Date: 3/15/20

To: Individuals, Parents & Families, Providers

From: Kelli Grisham, Superintendent

Subj: CoVID-19 (Coronavirus) Information

Please know that the health and safety of the students and the adults that we support, our employee, our providers, and our community is our top priority. We are doing our very best to maintain everyone's continuity of care at this time. Therefore, we are committed to keeping Blanchard Valley Center open as long as it is safe to do so.

Governor DeWine has ordered all Ohio Schools to be closed for three weeks. Therefore, Blanchard Valley School will be closed from Monday, March 16th through April 3, 2020. Also beginning March 16, 2020 Blanchard Valley Center will limit access to our facility through April 3, 2020. Only necessary meetings will be held during this time and any meetings that can be conducted via telephone or technology will be utilized through April 3, 2020. In the event you must enter our facilities, you will be asked various questions in order to maintain a healthy environment at both BVC and BVS. I apologize in advance for the extra strain this puts on people we support and their families.

I remain in contact with local public health experts at the Hancock County Public Health Department, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the local school districts as this continues to evolve. Trustworthy and reliable information sources are key to ensuring we are not over or under reacting to this public health concern. Updates will be shared as soon as they are known.

Current Situation

CDC is responding to an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus. At this time Hancock County has no positive cases nor any person under public health supervision.

Current Public Health Message to Prevent Illness

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- If you are sick, then stay home, except to get medical care.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and avoid mass gatherings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Get Your Information from Reliable Sources

- Ohio Department of Health (ODH) information line (833) 427-5634
- ODH website www.coronavirus.ohio.gov
- CDC website www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Enhanced Cleaning and Sanitizing

We have immediately undertaken some extra precautions at our facilities. In addition to our normal daily cleaning and sanitizing, we have arranged for increased sanitizing of high touch areas and objects within our building. We have placed additional tissues and hand sanitizer throughout our buildings and have developed additional cleaning schedules.

Questions

- Any questions involving individuals we support-please contact the assigned SSA.
- Any questions involving provider staffing issues- please contact Denise DeVault or Kelli Grisham
- Any questions involving cleaning or sanitizing- please contact Brian Stoepfel
- Any questions involving health related issues- please contact Michelle Darrach, RN
- Any questions about scheduled trainings or events- please contact Nadine Weininger
- Any after hours or emergency calls- please utilize the SSA on-call number, (419) 722-9262

Health and Safety

The decisions we made to close Blanchard Valley School and limit access to Blanchard Valley Center is not one that we take lightly. We understand that even though we are in difficult times, everyone's health and safety is our top priority. Thank you in advance for your patience and assistance as together we navigate this evolving public health situation.