

COVID-19 Update

March 23, 2020

North Metro Community Services

First off North Metro is extending its closure of Day Program and our administrative offices through April 17 to mirror the closure order that Governor Polis has issued for schools across the state. Unfortunately I think the closure order and consequently our closure will be extended beyond that date but we continue to take this one step at a time.

Here at North Metro our offices are primarily closed. We are conducting essential business only and are discouraging staff from coming to the building and encouraging them to keep those visits as short as possible.

Next week is payroll. For those of you with direct deposit your pay will be deposited as usual. For people who get actual paper checks you will be hearing from your respective departments regarding how those checks can be picked up. There will be a small window of time on March 31st when you will be able to pick up checks. Any paper checks that aren't picked up at that time will be mailed to you. Once again this is a great example of why you should have direct deposit of your check.

The most important thing that any of us can do at this time is to religiously practice social distancing. This means to stay at home as much as possible and when you do go out stay at least 6 feet from others. One of the key things here is to avoid any unnecessary exposure. This weekend I drove around a bit to see what was happening in my community and I was stunned to see the crowds at places like Home Depot, Lowes, Michaels and Target (and a lot of those Target shoppers weren't getting groceries, I saw a big screen TV and some furniture being carried out). I know people are bored and no one likes being essentially confined to their home but I would argue that this is a very small price to pay to protect yourself, your family, the people we serve and our community at large. I compare this with people displaced by natural disasters who often have no home to which they can return. What we are being asked to do is an annoyance compared to the sacrifices that others have made over the years.

This may seem to go without saying but social distancing also includes eliminating travel. Obviously I can't tell you what to do on your own time but traveling right now increases the risks for everyone. If you're going to a low risk area you could potentially be spreading the virus there and if you're traveling to a high risk area you could be bringing the virus home with you. We serve a very high risk population and the best thing we can do right now to protect them is to limit their potential exposure to COVID-19 and one of the ways you can do that is refrain from traveling. I personally had a trip planned for this coming weekend to Nebraska to celebrate my mom's birthday; just a short trip to a very low risk area that would be ok, right? No, it's not ok which is why I cancelled that trip; flowers and a phone call will have to do for this year.

So please practice social distancing, stay home and stay healthy. It will be great when we have our lives back but right now we need to be responsible about protecting ourselves and our community so that we are all here when that time comes.

Randy Brodersen
Executive Director, North Metro Community Services