

## COVID-19/Coronavirus Update

COVID-19 continues to spread across the US and in Colorado. The most recent information shows that 12 cases have been confirmed in Colorado, most were linked to foreign travel but several more are still under investigation. Consequently the risk of exposure and spread is increasing. The purpose of this update is to keep people who receive services from North Metro, their families and our staff up to date on our efforts to protect everyone here from COVID-19.

First of all Staff who have cold or flu symptoms should not report to work until they have no symptoms or have been released by a medical professional. If they have a fever of 100.4 (this is the threshold recommended by the Center for Disease Control) or above they should not report to work until they have been released by a medical professional. If your health insurance is through Kaiser they will assess you over the phone and either have you come in or will send you an email releasing you to return to work. If a staff person does not have PTO to cover this absence they need to contact their supervisor; North Metro will work with you to make sure that you can get paid for the time you miss.

People receiving Day Program services at North Metro should follow the same approach. If they are sick they should not come into Day Program until they do not have symptoms or have been released to return by the medical professional. If they have a fever of 100.4 or above they should not come to North Metro until they have been released by a medical professional. If a person receiving services is visibly ill when transportation arrives and they do not have a medical release they will not be transported to North Metro. People arriving here via Access-a-Ride or private transportation who are visibly ill will be isolated and their provider/family contacted to take them home.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has released guidelines for people over 60 years of age or those who have underlying health issues recommending that they avoid large groups and minimize social contact. Our Resource Coordination Department is going to be reaching out to people, their families and their teams to make sure they are aware of this information and to allow them to make an informed choice concerning whether or not they want to attend Day Program.

At this point we are monitoring information regarding COVID-19 daily, even hourly as the situation develops. We will be releasing further updates regarding efforts to minimize face to face contact as more information becomes available; a separate memo has been released to support partners and people receiving Supported Living Services. We will be posting updates like this one at least weekly for the time being to keep everyone informed about how we are dealing with this outbreak. Please understand that we will be erring on the side of caution in applying these guidelines. We serve a population that includes a large number of people who have underlying health issues that make them more vulnerable to this virus and we have to do our best to protect them and the rest of our community. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Randy Brodersen, Executive Director