

Highlands Community Ministries Response to COVID-19

The information that is provided to the public regarding the progression and prevention of COVID-19 spread is changing several times a day. The staff and Board are committed to implementing CDC and state recommendations to maintain the health of our clients, volunteers, and staff. Our community partners share our commitment as well.

Our goal is to establish processes that support our mission and continue to serve our clients. The hope is that through our preventative endeavors, we will be able to continue to serve our clients in IFAP, Senior Services and Child Care. It is important to note that this is a very fluid situation and things are changing frequently.

I would like to share some of the strategies that have already been employed.....

- Clients, staff and volunteers who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness to stay home until they are free of fever (100.4° F [37.8° C] or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).
- Clients, staff, and volunteers who appear to have acute respiratory illness upon arrival to one of our facilities will be separated from others and immediately sent home.
- Signage is in place at the entrance of our facilities (Childcare sites and HCC) that asks everyone entering the building to stop and wash their hands.
- Educational posters developed by the CDC have been hung in our facilities and provided to all nutrition site participants, staff, and volunteers. They include proper handwashing techniques and sneeze/cough precautions.
- All childcare staff and parents have been emailed regarding the precautions utilized by the staff based on the KY Licensure Guidelines.
- Childcare centers have suspended outside groups providing services such as Silly Safari, Stretch & Grow, Spanish. No outings will be scheduled at this time.
- Clients served through Meals on Wheels have been contacted to discuss the status of meal delivery and the potential that it might change
- Clients served for congregate meals (HCC) will have “to go” containers pre packed for pick up.
- IFAP will be implementing strategies to stagger client entry into the program space and increase disinfecting practices.
- IFAP may also relax guidelines related to the distribution of food so that clients can stock up should the food pantry be closed.

Since there is a possibility at some point recommend, we may need to close, plans are in place to make those decisions.

- All closures will be communicated through the Executive Director after consultation with the Executive Committee.
 - Notifications related to childcare will occur through email and text to the parents.
 - Notifications related to senior services and day cares will be through the local news.
 - Signage will also be placed on the doors of each facility.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Troy, directors and staff, volunteers, clients, and Board for all the thought and consideration in doing our part to keep our HCM community healthy and served.

Thank you,

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