



March 23, 2020

Dear CADES Staff:

We are writing to continue to keep our lines of communication open and you, as part of the team, informed. Early today, we were informed that a member of CADES senior leadership team has tested positive for COVID-19 after potential exposure to the virus. Thankfully, the employee is not currently experiencing any symptoms, has been in touch with medical professionals and is now self-quarantined.

As you know, the services CADES provides are essential to the people and families we support – some of our most vulnerable community members. As the COVID-19 situation progresses, our top priority is the wellbeing of our staff and the individuals we care for. We have a plan in place with dedicated teams ensuring the continuation of our care. This includes the implementation of safeguards to ensure the proper care and health of our staff and residents, including increased health screening, temperature screening, and a thorough disinfection plan.

Since yesterday evening, we have been working closely with the local health authorities to assess the situation. We have shared our approach with staff at the PA Department of Public Health; **the PA Department of Health has advised us that we are following the proper protocols and taking the appropriate course of action at this time.**

While we have followed, and continue to follow, CDC recommendations to mitigate the spread of this virus, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic, indicating that the risk of community spread, for all of us, is high. Many individuals and families may be exposed to COVID-19 over time, so it is essential for all of us to take every precaution recommended by local health officials and the CDC, including hand washing, monitoring symptoms, and limiting exposure by practicing social distancing. Please partner with us by following these guidelines, which we have shared previously, contacting your health care provider if you are ill or have questions about your health or that of a loved one, and keeping us informed if you or anyone in your family is impacted, so we can continue the good work of minimizing the impact on our community.

I recognize there is concern and anxiety felt across our community. I have found comfort in knowing the strength of our community to overcome difficulties such as these. One of the things I have loved about CADES is the way we balance care in the face of challenge, how we support each other. I am grateful to be a part of this community as we face these challenges together.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions. We will continue to share information as appropriate.

Sincerely,


Julie Alleman