Dear Employees,

Thank you so much for all you are doing to support people and your coworkers!

We recently had an experience that sent us reeling. Five employees tested positive in one group home within a week.

What we believe to be the cause is that a person that we support became infected with COVID. This person uses a nebulizer which creates an aerosol. Employees who administered the nebulizing treatment or were in the room shortly thereafter were likely infected.

We are ecstatic that no other people living in the home contracted COVID, that the person supported who did test positive is recovering and so are the employees who were infected.

Here are some of the measures we took and are taking:

1. We did mandatory testing of all employees and people supported in Dickinson for two weeks. The reason for this testing was to insure that people supported were not infected. It was also to get a company baseline as Stark County has increased COVID positive numbers.
2. We implemented that staff wear full PPE when working with people who routinely use nebulizers. NOTE: When the person supported showed symptoms, we immediately implemented isolation and PPE but not before 5 employees were infected. Therefore, we will be using PPE for all routine and as needed nebulizers.
3. We implemented hazard pay to those employees who were working with people who were known to be infected and possibly infected.
4. We are changing masks daily which was a goal since the beginning of COVID.

**I can’t stress enough the importance of wearing face masks and using good handwashing. IT WORKS!! REMEMBER, NO ONE RESIDING IN THE HOME BECAME INFECTED. This is a great tribute to the employees working in this home.**

I celebrate our team for all the hard work and cooperation for the past 6 months. I hope to gather statistics for how ABLE, Inc. is working through this situation. I can say that we have had only one person that we support residentially test positive and this is superb.

Sincerely,

Mary Anderson