7-9-2020

Dear Employees,

I want to share with you a couple of updates. Friendship is a provider in Fargo who had several staff and people supported test positive for COVID. They shared some of their notes.

* 13 staff tested positive and 3 people supported.
* One person supported ended up on a ventilator and was not expected to live.
* This was a huge wakeup call. Staff were very alarmed.
* The person ended up being a miracle and is now home.
* They said that they never wanted to experience this again!
* **SINCE THAT OUTBREAK, STAFF HAVE BEEN WEARING MASKS AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER POSITIVES**
* They also had CDC walk through the home. Some things that impressed CDC was one point of entry for staff to come in, supplies and screenings were all at hand prior to supporting people (all things ABLE, Inc. is doing).
* One thing Friendship did early on was to make sure the people supported were educated on the virus. They taught people how to wear a mask, and social distance.

This week ABLE, Inc. experienced a second employee who tested positive. Based on this experience we want to stress to our employees:

1. Please report to the NURSING HOTLINE, 701-290-8565, any symptoms no matter how minor they may be. If you are unable to get through to the nursing hotline, please contact the Support Coordinator. Thankfully, the medical community has been more supportive with testing of employees.
2. Wear MASKS and FREQUENT HANDWASHING!

ABLE’s Plan for the positive test:

1. We are testing all the people supported and the staff at that workplace on July 9th.
2. We notified all families at that home.
3. We are limiting visitors and activities until the results come back.
4. The NDDoH did recommend that the staff who had contact with the other staff, self-quarantine.

**EMPLOYEES…THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING. MASK WEARING, SOCIAL DISTANCING, HANDWASHING ARE ALL CRITICAL TO SUCCESS.**

One thing that could help is that if you see a break in protocol regarding mask wearing, social distancing, practicing hygienic measures, etc. please call it to that employee’s attention. ***We can forget at times***.

If you were the person being reminded, please do not be offended. It takes all of us to be vigilant and observant.

Thanks again for all you are doing!