

As the spread of Coronavirus continues across the United States and into Mississippi, we want to update the families we serve about measures we are taking to help protect our caregivers and our clients from contracting and/or spreading the virus. While there is no way to guarantee avoiding exposure to this virus, there are steps we can all take to reduce the risk of exposure. For instance, proper hand-washing techniques, routinely cleaning high-touch surfaces, and avoiding crowds are keys to reducing risks. These are practices we promote to our caregivers throughout the year, but we are raising special attention to these practices during the present circumstances.

One of the major concerns about the virus is infection in the elderly because available data appear to indicate the elderly are disproportionately affected in the most severe cases. Since we work in the homes of vulnerable populations, we want to be particularly conscious of our potential to expose elderly and high-risk clients. In addition to ongoing education about the virus and precautionary methods to help avoid it, we are asking our caregivers to let us know if they, any members of their household, or others with whom they are in close contact have recently traveled out of state for any reason. It is difficult to isolate ourselves from everyday activities, but we have an obligation to protect ourselves and our clients.

We are diligently sharing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including proper handwashing, avoiding handshaking, avoiding large crowds, nourishing yourself by eating well balanced, nutritious foods, and getting enough rest. If our caregivers feel any symptoms of being sick, such as unusual headaches, fever, or coughing, they have been instructed to contact us immediately, as we do not want to send them into any home.

We recognize this is a highly unusual time in our society, and while we are taking the recommendations seriously and being diligent about our training, we are also aware that an atmosphere of panic and confusion can quickly emerge. We hope that following the best practices guidelines from the CDC will help us avoid erroneous information. Please know we are taking every precaution to help our caregivers understand the seriousness of this issue, as well as common sense measures to protect themselves and your family. Our goal is to experience as little disruption as possible to our care plans and, as always, provide high quality, dependable care for you or your loved ones.