
COMMUNITY VENTURES IN LIVING, LTD

COVID-Response Plan Policy

PREAMBLE

The mission of Community Ventures in Living (CVL) is to assist and support persons who are developmentally disabled and their families to establish and/or maintain homes that are truly their own. The services of the agency are founded on the belief that every individual has the right to live as a valued and accepted member of the community. Recognizing that from time to time every individual needs support, we strive to help individuals who have disabilities and their families to live as independently as is appropriate and to create an environment where dignity, a positive social role, inclusion in the community, self-direction, and feelings of self-worth are enhanced through supporting individual strengths, developing positive relationships, and the acquisition of life skills.

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of CVL that team members will conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times, understanding that the way they conduct themselves has both direct and indirect impact on the individuals they support. CVL employees are nearly constantly being viewed as role models by the people they serve through every spoken word and every action. This holds true for the practice of universal precautions as described in the mandated training for all employees, and also in the safety measures recommended by the CDC in dealing with COVID-19. These health and safety measures may be challenging for those we serve to understand and practice consistently. As direct support professionals it is imperative that CVL employees model appropriate safety practices and support and encourage the same in those they serve.

CVL PERSPECTIVE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The reality we face is that the risks presented by the coronavirus are real and present. The number of people negatively affected by COVID expands each day. The only long-term solution will be the development, manufacture and distribution of a safe and effective vaccine. In spite of the fact that this has been going on for a long time, in spite of being weary of taking all the recommended precautions, regardless of how ready we are to get back to a more normal routine, the truth is that we must remain vigilant and take every step possible to keep ourselves healthy and free from infection so that we can help those we serve to do the same.

PRINCIPLES OF PANDEMIC SERVICE PROVISION

These key facts are critical to keep in mind as we provide support to individuals and their families during the time of COVID-19:

- The threat to many of us, and many more of the people we serve, is real.
- This threat will only be eliminated when there is a cure/vaccine.
- While most people will recover from this, if you become seriously ill, your best chance to recover is to have access to a medical system with the capacity to respond.
- The best scenario is to not have to 'recover' and we can significantly impact the possibility of someone being exposed with a coordinated response.

- It will be impossible to hide until a cure is available and our world is going to present more risk as people return to a new normal and social exposure is increased.
- Society has a long history of overlooking the adaptations necessary for the people we serve to be safe – this moment in time will not be different.

With these facts in mind, we must remain fiercely committed to doing all we can to protect ourselves, each other, and the folks we support.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE PRACTICES

Here are the actions we will all incorporate into our daily professional lives to protect ourselves and others:

- Health Screening Process
 - All CVL employees and contractors are required to take their temperature each morning prior to work
 - Temperature checks and symptom checks must be documented each morning at the following link on the CVL website: https://cvl-in.org/health_check
- Frequent Handwashing
 - Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitizer frequently in compliance with universal precautions practices and CDC recommendations.
 - Restrooms at the Lafayette office have signs posted with recommendations for proper hand washing.
 - Hand sanitizing stations are located at each entrance to the building.
- Social Distancing
 - Avoid close contact by maintaining 6 feet between yourself and other people.
 - Signs throughout CVL office locations encourage proper distancing to maintain safety.
 - DSP's are encouraged to observe 6 feet of distance between themselves and those they support and other members of the community when performing their duties.
- Face Coverings
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
 - The statewide face covering mandate applies to all CVL employees and contractors.
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Protocols for the Workplace
 - Daily sanitizing of high-touch surfaces is required at the CVL office locations.
 - All public areas of the Lafayette office contain cleaning checklists to both prompt and document daily cleaning.
 - Adequate cleaning supplies are made available and are conveniently located throughout the building.
- Enhancement of Personal Hygiene
 - The ability of employees, customers and clients to wash hands or take other personal hygiene measures such as the use of hand sanitizers has been enhanced.
 - Personal protective equipment including cloth face coverings, disposable latex gloves, sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer are available at the Lafayette and Indianapolis offices.
- Automobile Transportation Protocol
 - Service providers are required to wear masks at all times while transporting service recipients in their cares.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in the car for frequent hand sanitizing.
 - Frequently touched surfaces within the care are to be sanitized routinely between uses.

REVIEW PROCESS

Ongoing review of adherence to this policy will be the responsibility of the immediate supervisor, typically the region Program Director. Because the expectations outlined in this policy are so critical to safe and effective service provision, the Director of Quality and/or the Executive Director of the agency will also have oversight and intervention potential.