



Dear Families,

Thank you to all who have reached out. We are all experiencing these unprecedented times together and we appreciate hearing from you. The health and safety of everyone in the Advocates community is at the forefront of our minds while navigating the ever-changing information regarding COVID-19.

As you know, Governor Baker issued an emergency advisory requiring all non-essential businesses and organizations to close their physical workplaces and facilities until Tuesday, April 7. We assure you that **Advocates is a designated organization providing essential services.**

Our program staff are considered essential employees and will continue to support your family members and loved ones in residential group living environments at Advocates. We are prepared to continue supports and operations while following protocols from the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Public Health.

As of today, we have **one confirmed case of COVID-19** in the Advocates community. We are following DPH and our own protocols to ensure the safety and health of all employees who may have had direct contact with the person. It is important for you to know the employee does not work with people served in our residential programs.

To keep your family members and our staff safe during this time, we continue to monitor and enhance our practices and protocols as more information becomes available. We are working diligently to obtain and distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), despite the nationally shortage. Our goal is that everyone in

programs, including people we support, has a mask, and when needed, gowns, gloves, and face shields.

While everyone is practicing social and physical distancing, you may follow [Advocates Facebook](#) to catch our *Healthy Heroes Daily Resources* for creative virtual resources you and your loved ones can use to fill your day, engage your mind, stretch your muscles, and stay connected.

You may also visit www.Advocates.org/COVID19 at any time to find all updates regarding COVID-19 and Advocates.

Please remember we are all in this together and we care deeply about your family members and loved ones supported by Advocates. We encourage you to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Take care and stay healthy,

Diane Gould
President & CEO

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