

Dear APD Board Members and Families (05/28/2021),

As the situation regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve, we want to ensure that the health and safety of our residents, staff, visitors, and family members are our top priority. In the coming days we will take every precaution and put preventative actions in place as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We want to share a few of the steps we are taking.

- ✓ Visitors to Merica House who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are no longer being restricted. Visitors who are not fully vaccinated are still required to wear a face covering (covers mouth and nose) at all times and should maintain social distancing (6 feet) whenever possible. If an unvaccinated visitor does not have a face covering, one will be provided. All visitors should complete the Health Department Log sheet upon entering Merica House. Questions pertaining to visitation should be directed to the Alliance for the Physically Disabled (703-671-7991, rsc@theapd.org).
- ✓ Merica House aides and staff will continuously clean using Lysol and similar products to clean and disinfect high-touch, high-traffic areas in MH, such as wheelchairs, door handles, and all surfaces in common areas and residents' rooms.
- ✓ Hand sanitizers throughout Merica House will be filled and all staff and visitors will be encouraged to use it.
- ✓ Every aide is charged with the highest standard of personal hygiene as well as taking responsibility for doing their part in maintaining cleanliness in their work area.
- ✓ We are ensuring that our staff and aides have the information they need to stay healthy. Anyone not feeling well is being asked to stay home.
- ✓ We will continue to follow the health and safety procedures including frequent hand-washing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- ✓ Any resident presenting with a fever and/or flu-like symptoms will notify the service coordinator and their primary physician ASAP.

We are taking this public health concern seriously. Our protocols are based on guidance from the CDC and other world, U.S. and local health and government organizations. Their recommendations will continue to guide our business protocols and plans. We will continue to stay informed, but you can find current information on the CDC website.

We strive to keep Merica House and the residents, staff and aides safe. We are totally committed to maintaining a safe environment for all.

Thank you,

Annette Porter, President of The Alliance for the Physically Disabled