

May 10, 2021

To: All Hope Stakeholders

From: Senior Leadership Team

### **COVID-19 General Policy for Hope Community Resources Inc.**

Several new updates to Hope's COVID-19 Policy have been issued including recent guidance and mandates from the Federal Center for Disease Control, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services mandates, the State of Alaska Public Health Department, Senior and Disabilities Services, the Department of Licensing, and the Municipality of Anchorage Emergency Orders. These include lifting of some restrictive requirements following Alaska's leading vaccination efforts!

### **Federal Government Declarations and Guidance (May 10, 2021):**

- Public Health Emergency issued by the Biden Administration expires April 21, 2021. This is expected to be further extended in 2021.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has authorized current flexibilities for waivers (Appendix K) for an additional 6 months until October 20, 2021
- CDC guidance (April 29, 2021) updated for fully vaccinated people ( 2 weeks after their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose) providing additional visitation opportunities
- FDA approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for US children as young as 12 years old (May 10, 2021)

### **State of Alaska Public Health Disaster Emergency (expired Feb 14, 2021)**

- DHSS continues to operate under the same guidance and direction previously provided
- Vaccination distribution: ALL Alaskans over the age of 12df years are now eligible
- State Health Advisory No.2: Safe travel advisory contains various options and employers can require testing after arrival and second test 5-14 days later
- Visitation Guidelines for Residential Congregate settings (March 28, 2021) outline guidance specific to residents and visitor vaccination status. This also applies to Care Coordination and Licensing visits.

### **Municipality Emergency Order -13v5 & 20v2 (effective May 03, 2021):**

- **Mask and Face Covering mandate aligns with CDC guidance**
- Travel: Alaska resident and non-resident travelers follow State Health Advisory No.2
- 6 ft distancing and masking at all times for many indoor activities

- Gathering size maximums
- Work remotely when possible

### **Hope's Medical Director Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People (March 11, 2021):**

- Application of CDC guidelines for visitation with fully vaccinated people
- Application of CDC guidelines for visitation with unvaccinated people

**Additional tools to help determine the continued precautions on a person-centered basis will be released during the coming week, as well as updates to the following policies:**

- 1. Employee Ready for Work Policy (All Environments)**
- 2. Assisted Living and Congregate Settings**
- 3. Independent and Natural Home Settings**
- 4. Community Based Activities, including Medical Appointments, Group Activities, Recreational Opportunities, and Therapeutic Activities**
- 5. Office and Administrative Settings**

**Vaccination is your personal choice but it does offer additional benefits with respect to policy updates. To respect our employee's privacy and personal choice, any responses to the daily screening questions regarding vaccination will be held confidential by the Human Resources Department and not shared with your co-workers without your permission. For the protection of all employees and recipients health and privacy, we will maintain the requirement to wear a mask indoors, if you are not a household member.**

### **Employee Ready for Work Policy (All Environments)**

Hope expects employees to act responsibly when at work or off duty by:

- Staying home if you are feeling sick
- Washing hands frequently
- Wearing a face mask whenever six feet distancing cannot be maintained, or indoors in a public setting
- Practicing social distancing of six feet or more from non-family member
- Complying with travel mandates for the State of Alaska as applicable to Hope

Hope requires employees getting ready for work to:

- Review daily health screening questions before leaving their home
- Check that their temperature is below 100.3 deg F

- Assure they have personal protective equipment such as gloves, face mask, (and face shields and outer protective clothing, as required)

Hope requires employees reporting for work to:

- Have their temperature scanned before entering a worksite building
- Complete an electronic daily health screening using the online tool, unless an exception is granted to complete a paper form

#### **CLEARANCE FOR RETURN TO WORK AFTER COVID-19 QUARANTINE**

**Any employee returning from quarantine must have an interview with Hope's Medical Director, Dr. Browner and have evidence of a second negative COVID-19 test within 7 days if they were quarantined for a positive test. COVID-19 test results must be from the nose or throat swab, not a blood test.**