



Illinois Department of Human Services

JB Pritzker, Governor

Grace B. Hou, Secretary

Ludeman Developmental Center
114 N Orchard Drive • Park Forest, Illinois 60466

April 1, 2020

Dear Families and Guardians:

I know this is a stressful time for you and your families and being away from your loved ones during this time makes it even more difficult. Please know we want to connect you with your loved ones as much as possible, and we will continue to try to increase video calls and telephone calls until we can allow visitors back to the Center.

Center staff are calling families directly to inform you if your loved one is diagnosed with COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19. If a resident is diagnosed with COVID-19, or displays symptoms of COVID-19, the resident is immediately placed in isolation for his or her safety and the safety of the other residents. This helps the resident heal and limits the possibility of spreading the virus. The Department of Human Services has its own Infectious Disease group that guides our protocols and decision making for anything COVID-19 related, and we are working closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health and local health departments to ensure our Center is as safe as possible.

As you are aware, Ludeman Center has been impacted by COVID-19. The positive cases include both employees and persons served.

We have been taking extra precautions during this time, and we will continue our efforts to minimize the spread of the virus.

Some of the many steps we've taken are:

- We closed all on campus day training sites.
- Individuals are not attending off campus day training sites.
- All group activities were cancelled.
- Individuals are encouraged to remain in their bedrooms.
- Meals are served separately to individuals and/or small groups with adequate spacing.
- There are no visitors permitted at the Center.
- There are no community outings occurring.
- There are no home visits occurring.
- Detailing of staff to other areas is limited.

- Screening staff for symptoms at designated checkpoints and not allowing them to work if they fail to pass the checkpoint.
- All individuals' vitals are taken on the AM shift and PM shift.
- Continual training of staff regarding sanitation, handwashing, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) and reuse guidelines following guidelines from Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Enhanced cleaning on frequently touched surfaces, such as doors, handrails and light switches, etc.
- Individuals who exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are placed in isolation.
- Follow isolation protocols for people served.
- Staff have been instructed to inform the Center if they or a family member are experiencing symptoms and whether they were tested. This allows the Center to take immediate protective actions.

While this time can be lonely for residents because there are no group gatherings, our staff are still working to engage residents and ensure they have the appropriate support.

This is a difficult time for everyone, but please know the Center is doing the best we can to protect your loved ones.

If you have any questions, please reach out to: Lisa.Robinson@illinois.gov

Thank you for your understanding during this time and please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lisa Robinson, Center Director

Grace Hou, Secretary

Kia Coleman, Assistant Secretary

Allison Stark, DD Director

Tiffany, Bailey, SODC Operations