



Presbyterian Home for Children

COVID-19 Response Update, May 2020

As concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus grow and change, the Presbyterian Home for Children and Ascension Leadership Academy are continuing to monitor developments and adjust our response. As always, our top priority is the safety and well-being of the children and families we serve as well as the health of our dedicated staff.

The Home has had a *Pandemic and Influenza Plan* in place for many years as a requirement of our State Department of Human Resources contracts and has updated it regularly as part of our *accreditation* process. This has served as our guide for action in this unprecedented event.

Following are the major safety steps the Home and Academy have taken.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Any place where people live in close quarters presents its own challenges in health and safety. Staff and residents have been trained on best practices for hygiene and healthy associations, which now includes enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

Residential programs have always had restricted access to anyone not living on campus. Residents are now restricted to campus except for essential travel and are being encouraged to practice healthy associations. This has not changed with the recent lifting of travel restrictions in Alabama.

New residents in the Secure Dwellings, Transition to Adult Living, or Moderate Care programs must successfully complete an isolation period. Staff in these programs continue to work their normal work schedules and have been provided the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to maximize their safety and that of others.

Provisions have been made for a potential infirmary or isolation living quarters if they are needed.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY

Many employees are able to work remotely from home and spend limited time in the office setting, with most offices having limited employees present daily. Meetings, including Social Worker and Therapist meetings with clients and a recent Board of Trustees meeting, are taking place through Zoom, Skype, FaceTime and similar technologies.

ASCENSION LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Ascension Leadership Academy transitioned to online classes at home on March 16. In coordination with parents and Presbyterian Home resident caregivers, classes are continuing with daily support from administrators and teachers through ZOOM,

telephone, and messaging contact. Student progress of assignment completion is monitored daily and, as needed, contact is made with the student or parent.

THRIFT STORE

The Thrift Store re-opened for business on May 4 with additional cleaning and sanitizing of merchandise and shopping carts, PPE for employees, and a maximum of 10 people in the store at any given time.

Donated items may be left by the building in Talladega, but other drop-off locations are unavailable.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer work days have been cancelled until Fall 2020.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

The primary business of the Presbyterian Home for Children and Ascension Leadership Academy, caring for homeless and at-risk children and their families, is continuing during this pandemic. Families are being served, children are learning, and needs are being met. We appreciate the support of dedicated staff, Board, volunteers, donors, and the community who make this possible, even in the most difficult of times.

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