



VIRGINIA SUPPORT GROUP

Group Day Support COVID-19 Exposure Mitigation Protocols

1.0 Purpose

The Virginia Support Group (VSG) Exposure Mitigation Protocols are designed to mitigate staff and individuals receiving services from potential COVID-19 exposure by means of identification, evaluation, and control of pathogen transmission factors in the day support center.

2.0 Responsibilities

- **Management**—Ensure that the content of these protocols is managed effectively, and that these protocols are reviewed and evaluated for effectiveness and updated as necessary.
- **Staff**—Ensure that these protocols are understood and followed. Any deviations from these protocols through work practices or changes/failures in equipment are to be promptly reported to supervisors.

3.0 Definitions

- **Pathogen**—Organism (i.e. bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi) that cause disease in human beings (CDC).
- **Exposure**—Contact with a substance by swallowing, breathing, or touching the skin or eyes (CDC)
- **COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2**—COVID-19 is the condition caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus (CDC)
- **COVID-19 Symptoms**—Fever (body temperature greater than 100.4°F), dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, and other flu-like symptoms (i.e., chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat) (CDC)
- **Hand Sanitizer**—Hand hygiene fluid with greater than 60% alcohol (CDC)

4.0 References

- www.cdc.gov
- www.epa.gov



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5.0 Potential Sources

The following is a list of locations identified as potential exposure points:

- Restrooms
- Common Area (i.e. kitchen, activity room, game room)
- Individual/Staff Contact
- Equipment

6.0 Measures to Reduce Staff and Individuals Exposure

- **Training**—Our staff will be trained in Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS) COVID-19 and Community Based Infection Control Strategies and these protocols.
- **Self-Screening**—Staff and individuals (caregivers, parent/guardian) will be informed that they should not report to work or attend day support if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have experienced symptoms in the 72 hours (3 days) prior of starting shift or attending the day support program.
- **Health Screening**—Upon reporting to work or participating in day support program, staff's and individual's body temperatures will be measured with a thermometer and assessed. Staff and individuals with body temperatures greater than 100°F or who have flu-like symptoms (i.e., chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat) will not be allowed to enter facility and will be directed to return to their homes. All temperatures will be recorded.
- **Transportation**—All individuals who receives transportation by VSG will receive temperature checks before entering the transportation vehicle. All temperatures will be recorded.
- **Lunches**— All individual's lunch should consist of food items that does not require reheating. Microwaves will not be used during this time. All lunches will be eaten in the activity room. Disposable utensils will be required, if needed, in the individual's lunch box.
- **Community Activities**—any community activities involving visiting high traffic businesses (i.e., museums, malls, restaurants, bowling alleys, movie theaters, etc.) will be suspended until further notice. Outdoor community activities such as visiting parks for exercise will be permitted using social distancing protocols.
- **Visitors**—Visitors will be limited during this time. All day support tours will be suspended. All visitors must remain in the lobby. All visitors must wear face mask. If visitor does not have a face mask, one will be provided. All visitors must wash their hands at the lobby handwashing station before interacting with any



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individuals. Transportation drivers will not be allowed in the building for pick up or drop off.

- **Signage**—Signs will be posted throughout the day support center reminding staff and individuals of CDC hygiene and safety guidelines.
- **Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Use**—facial coverings, as recommended by the CDC, will be worn by staff and individuals while at day support center and interacting with each other.
- **Personal Hygiene**—Soap and water will be available to staff and individuals in the restrooms. Staff and individuals must take frequent handwashing breaks. Hand washing must be performed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, as recommended by the CDC. Hand sanitizer will be available in the common areas. Signage and/or staff will be deployed to encourage the use of hand sanitizer. Refrain from touching nose, mouth, and eyes.
- **Enhanced Sanitizing and Disinfecting**—The following areas will be disinfected regularly during the day and evening after closing time and upon indication of additional need:
 - Restrooms
 - Kitchen
 - Tables
 - Doorknobs & Light Switches
 - Handheld electronics (i.e. game controllers, tablets, remote controls)
 - Computer stations
 - Chairs
 - Employee-Only Areas
 - Transportation Vehicles
 - Telephones
 - Copy Machines
 - Drawer Handles, etc.
- **Enhanced Overnight Sanitizing and Disinfecting**—The day support center will be thoroughly cleaned during non-operating hours meeting or exceeding CDC guidelines and recommendations.
- **Limited Large On-Property Events**—Evening group activities that draw big crowds have been suspended.
- **HVAC Systems**—Air quality testing has been completed showing that the indoor air quality at our day support center is better than outside air quality. Filters will be replaced on a regular basis.



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7.0 Updates

- We will continually review and evaluate our exposure control protocols and update it as necessary and needed.

Completed by:

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