7/31/2020

It is so hard to believe August is upon us and we are 6+ months into COVID19. Call me Polly Anna but I had so hoped this darn virus would have been defeated by now, but I took my rosy glasses off and like all of us COVID is here to stay until a vaccine can be found to rid us of this horrible pandemic.

I wanted to reach out to our consumers and ACEs because certain towns/states/board of health departments/and Aldermen have put ordinances in place to protect all citizens in their districts. Unfortunately, not all ordinances are the same, so I would like to suggest best practices to keep everyone safe and protected.

If a consumer lives in a complex or building with other residents then ACEs are expected to wear a mask when entering building and when walking through halls or in common areas. Consumers should also wear masks if they venture out of their apartment and congregate in hallways or common areas.

If an ACE/or consumer goes out into the community to run errands or go to grocery store or any other public building you are expected to wear a mask. This shouldn’t be news to anyone in most cases most stores are mandating a mask be worn before entry.

Finally, if Joe consumer lives in his/her own home and an ACE goes to the home to provide assistance a mask should be worn when social distancing of 6 ft or less can not be maintained. I understand that although it’s your home and GSIL nor government can mandate a consumer wear a mask, the ACE should wear a mask/gloves and practice universal precautions when providing hands on care. The mask is a barrier between 2 people that can help prevent the spread of any virus not just COVID.

These times have changed everything for everyone in the world today. What we as individuals can do is practice safe distancing, practice good hand hygiene, and make sure we all wear our masks as appropriate in situations where social distancing isn’t possible or the risk of exposure is high. Remember, this virus is unseen, so no one really knows who could be walking around with it. Be safe...Be smart.

If you need more personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, gowns, sanitizer) please call your coordinator or GSIL and request some. No one should be without the tools they need to do the job that means so much. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to your coordinator.

Thank you,

Linda and Cheryl