

Text from CLI administrative email to staff on 3/10/20

Just an FYI that I'll be putting together a note to go home with everyone tomorrow (Wednesday) to talk about CLI's plans for how we intend to respond to growing fears.

First, barring any instructions from the government/law enforcement, CLI can not close our programs. While some individuals & families might choose to quarantine themselves-- there will be more for whom that is not an option. So-- I know that many CLI staff have young kids and that it is a possibility that area schools will close down. Graeme is suddenly home for the next month from OU (which is not popular with any of the Schwartz's-- except for the dog who is happy for the daytime playmate).

I just wanted to put out this note to make a couple points as we move forward:

- If parents of young kids need special consideration, we will work with people as much as possible-- even if it means that they run out of PTO. So if that is a stressor, you can let that go.
- Universal precautions! Let's all be better and every day is an opportunity to teach our clients.
- We are going to have to be picky about how we integrate ourselves in our communities for at least the month of March so that we aren't exposing our clients or others. The biggest danger isn't to the average person, it's that the average person might expose someone more fragile. We may want to think about what we do with nursing homes for now-- not because we are at risk, but because the older residents would be from us.
- We'll have to be careful/sneaky in regard to DODD's settings rule, but I want us to avoid really crowded places BUT I also want us to not hang out in groups larger than 6 as much as possible. So, small groups within our clients and small exposure in the larger public.
- If enough clients choose not to come in, there is the possibility that we'll have to shift staff around to get people enough hours. Brace yourself to be flexible. If we get to this point, I promise to work it out as much as possible with the whole group. We always meant to tackle schedules after CARF, we just might have to be more aggressive than we planned to be at the get-go.
- We're all in this together. I don't think the public reaction has been particularly productive. Given that the vaccine is reportedly at least a year away, I don't know that shutting the world down for 1 month moves us closer to a solution. On the upside, while I don't want to make small of this pandemic, it could be far worse. I would like us to take the opportunity to improve our practices so that if another worse virus were to spread, we're better equipped.
- Just another plug for universal precautions. You can't protect anyone until you protect yourself.

- We need to clean well and constantly. Part of the new schedules we have to build has to be improving how we keep surfaces clean. It's hard to find disinfectants right now, so read labels and don't overuse. Too much is counter-productive.

That's all I have for this evening. Thank you all for your hard work on behalf of CLI and what we do. We'll get through this as long as we stay in front of it and work together. For the record, I'm less concerned with the virus (except for some of our folks) than I am about Ohio's reaction to this. I'll have the note ready to go home with people tomorrow (and on the website & a quick one-call). Individuals and their families trust you and rely on you for more than you know. Let's make sure we're as calm & helpful as we can be.

**John Schwartz**

**CLI, Firelands Local LLC & Kenilee Lanes**

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