

Good afternoon everyone,

As we continue to battle potential exposure to the Coronavirus, we want to share with you two important updates regarding compensation for **ANYONE WORKING IN HOMES, DIRECTLY WITH CLIENTS:**

1. Beginning last night at midnight, staff working in homes and having direct contact supporting our clients will receive an additional \$1.00 per hour on top of their current hourly rate of pay. This is the second \$1.00/hr. increase that we have implemented. Please note that both increases will continue through the end of the Coronavirus crisis. We are deeply grateful for everyone that has so faithfully stepped up to meet the challenges we currently face.
2. In an earlier announcement concerning a potential 14-day quarantine or “shelter in place” scenario, it was described that staff working in homes would stay in the home around the clock and receive pay for 18 hours and then be off the clock for not less than 6 hours. This structure has been revised. Moving forward, any staff working within a 14-day quarantine setting will be paid for the full 24 hours of each day... 18 hours at their regular hourly rate (plus the \$2.00/hour increase resulting from the Coronavirus crisis) and 6 hours at the current minimum wage (\$11.00/hour). Our list of staff willing to work in a quarantine scenario is growing. Please send me an email or SComm indicating your ability to serve in this capacity.

In related news, a 14-day quarantine protocol has been established at two of our locations. The first is a residential setting where a staff person could have potentially been exposed to someone (outside The Arc) that tested positive for the virus. That staff person is exhibiting no symptoms but is presently self-quarantined. Two Arc staff have volunteered to work around the clock at this home for the duration of the quarantine period and all reports indicate that things are going very well. The second location is Point Breeze where one client is being quarantined and is supported by two staff. At this time we are awaiting test results for that client.

Questions have come up regarding how to treat packages that are delivered to homes. Here is a excerpt from a notice published by the World Health Organization:

[Is it safe to receive a package from any area where COVID-19 has been reported?](#)

Yes. The likelihood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low and the risk of catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from a package that has been moved, travelled, and exposed to different conditions and temperature is also low.

And here is a link to the CDC's website pertaining to the treatment of home-delivered groceries:
<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/communication/food-safety-meal-kits.html>

We continue to strive to keep you informed regarding developments around the agency and as new information becomes available to us. Thank you again for all that you are doing, continue to exercise every precaution and stay healthy!

Warm regards,
Jeff

Jeff Mattison
Executive Director