

# Coronavirus Update at Hale House

Responding to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), Hale House is actively preparing and monitoring the evolving, fast changing worldwide virus. Our top priority is the health and wellness of our residents and caregiving teams who support them. We are committed to ensuring that the residents and our dedicated staff are aware of our efforts and precautions required for COVID-19 prevention and containment.

Hale House has developed an Emergency Response Team (ERT) to develop precautions that are vital in helping us avoid and minimize the possible spread of the coronavirus. We are in regular communication with local and state public health (DPH) officials and the officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Hale House will be implementing an emergency preparedness plan, effective 3/12/20 which includes:**

- Post restriction signs at the front door and at the sign in station.
- Essential visitors only (at management discretion). No visitors under the age of 18.
- Screen all persons entering for any symptoms, including temperature. This will include all Hale Barnard employees, contracted and vendor staff alike. **No one will be permitted to enter if they exhibit symptoms or have a fever of 100.3 or greater.**
- Requiring the use of hand sanitizers upon entering the community, including staff and residents.
- Record temperatures on all residents, daily.
- Require residents to use hand sanitizer/hand washing before all meals in the presence of staff.
- Post “Stop the Spread of Germs” posters throughout the building.
- Restrict activities. We will be limiting the number of vendors, entertainers, volunteers and other outside guests.

- Suspending Adult Day Health Day Programs until further notice.
- Reschedule all routine medical appointments.
- Suspend VNA, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, etc. in home services.
- Suspend Ombudsman visits.

The risk of contagion is vastly reduced when common-sense measures are consistently used to limit exposure and when we diligently engage in standard, universal infection control practices on which all of our staff are routinely educated and trained (i.e., frequent hand-washing and cleaning of surfaces).

For additional information, please visit the CDC's coronavirus disease information page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

Thank you for your continued support and for being a valuable member of our community. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please reach out to me directly.

With gratitude,

Tracey Cravedi, Hale House Executive Director

## **Coronavirus Update at Hale House**

**In light of COVID-19 and the ongoing regular flu season, Please DO NOT ENTER our building if you:**

- Have traveled and returned from a known COVID-19 infected area within the last 14 days.
- Have signs or symptoms of respiratory illness / infection, i.e. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, nasal congestion, muscle and body aches.
- Had contact with someone confirmed with or being evaluated for COVID-19.

**Upon entering, you must comply with:**

- Temperature screenings
- Use of hand sanitizer

***Thank you for helping keep our Residents and Staff healthy.***

# Coronavirus Update: Residents of Hale House

All residents are monitored daily per usual practice, BUT if you are experiencing any flu-like or other respiratory symptoms, report this to one of our nurses immediately.

In addition to the protocols mentioned in the letter, below are some further precautions to prevent the spread of disease that will be reinforced regularly:

- **Wash hands frequently.**
- **Hand sanitize when returning home.**
- **Hand sanitize prior to all meals, or wash your hands in the main floor bathroom.**
- **Cover your mouth with your elbow when coughing/sneezing.**
- **NEVER leave tissues laying around after use.**
- **Notify staff immediately if feeling unwell.**
- **Stay at least 6 feet from others when possible.**
- **Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.**
- **Find an alternative to shaking hands and hugging.**

All residents returning from community appointments, Emergency Room visits and or hospital/rehab stays will be required to shower with staff assistance prior to reentry into the community.

If the Hale House Emergency Response Team (ERT) feels that quarantine protocols need to be implemented, it is expected that you comply with the precautions or your housing will be in jeopardy.

The ERT is closely monitoring the coronavirus and the protocols may change rapidly.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to come see me.

Kindly,  
Tracey Cravedi  
Hale House Executive Director

# Coronavirus Update: Staff of Hale Barnard

As you know a new respiratory disease, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), is spreading globally and there have been reports of Covid-19 within Massachusetts.

It is expected that all staff follow the policies and procedures related to the outbreak, and to ask for your collaboration in helping to minimize the impact of this highly contagious disease. The protocols are aimed at mitigating the hazard to our residents, namely those with chronic underlying health conditions that reduce their immune response.

- The Hale House Emergency Response Team (ERT) is to be notified immediately of any concerning changes in condition to a resident so that an appropriate care plan can be devised.
- It is important to remember that caregivers are not expected to judge the severity of any illness, so it is critical that you act on any information immediately.
- Any employee exhibiting symptoms resembling those of COVID-19 will be advised to seek medical care immediately.
- Employees are required to read and sign off on the Hale Barnard Infection Prevention and Control Policy.

In addition to the protocols mentioned in the letter and to the residents, below are some further precautions relevant to the nursing department:

- As an essential employee, you are expected to report to work for all of your scheduled shifts during this state of emergency. ***Plan now for family illness and or school cancellations.***
- In the event that public transit is closed, Hale House will send a Lyft ride to pick you up.
- Staff are forbidden to leave their shift until their covering colleague has arrived and has been cleared to work.
- Clean all frequently touched objects and surfaces routinely.
- Report all travel plans to your supervisor.
- Log resident temperatures daily.
- Restock supplies routinely and notify management if we are running low. There are delays and restrictions on ordering.

- Hale House has an emergency stock supply that is not in circulation and will be used for emergency/quarantine cases only. Contact Tracey or Jack if you are in need of the following items.
- Masks
  - Gowns
  - Gloves
  - Hand Sanitizer
  - Tylenol and Advil
  - Protective Eyewear
  - Quarantine door zippers for resident room/bathroom.

The Hale House ERT is closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and will adapt and update our protocols based on the recommendations of the CDC and DPH.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated, and will help limit exposure and reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to come see me.

Kindly,  
Tracey Cravedi  
Hale House Executive Director