



November 9, 2020

Hello Aspire Community,

You've heard about several changes in recent weeks at the agency. Everything from our name and logo to agency leadership. These changes are exciting and better position us to do the work of fulfilling our mission.

You'll also notice transformation of operational leadership. Each operational center has a Senior Director of Program Operations. In New Hampshire, we've hired John Whittemore. In Massachusetts, we've hired Steve Mendoza. In Connecticut, we've hired David Gallaway. And in Maryland, Sandy Chilton has moved into the roll. We've also added two new positions to the Program Operations team. Sherry Lynn McNeil has been hired as the Senior Director of Service Impact and Liz Sellinger has been hired as the Senior Director of Education. Together this team will work to unify our operations, focused on the impact our services and supports have on the people and communities we serve.

This team is also meeting weekly to lead our COVID-19 response efforts. As you know, COVID-19 cases are on the rise, and increasingly, states are limiting travel, restricting gatherings, and encouraging greater caution as the spread of the virus spikes. For Aspire Living & Learning, we continue to be concerned about the uptick in cases, both in the community and within our programs. Our number one goal is to ensure that each and every one of us remains healthy. To that end, I want to reiterate the importance of each of us doing our part:

1. **Follow Universal Precautions:** Whether at home or work, you are expected to follow all universal precautions. We know these work in slowing the spread of the virus. Encourage everyone in your home to do the same.
2. **Consider Your COVID Circle:** To keep transmission rates low, limit your circle to a few friends/family. Have conversations about what you and they are doing to stay safe and healthy. Limit your risk by "circling" with people who keep their COVID circle small.
3. **Holiday Planning:** Consider limiting your holiday travel, and share the holiday with your COVID circle. If you decide to travel to restricted areas, based on your state's guidelines, you will be expected to follow quarantine guidelines.
4. **Personal Safety = Safe Care:** We are more likely to bring the virus into a home where supported individuals live, than a supported individual to bring COVID into the home. Social distance, wash your hands frequently, disinfect surfaces, don't touch your face, wear a mask, stay home if sick.

5. **Stay Home When Sick:** If you feel unwell, please do not come to work. If you have a fever of 100.4 or above, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste, or headache, contact your primary care provider for medical guidance. Contact your manager.
6. **Any COVID Exposure Must Be Disclosed:** If you have been exposed to a presumptive or positive COVID-19 case, you must call your Aspire manager immediately. It's imperative that we contain contamination from one facility/agency to another.

Your efforts to stay healthy and safe are paramount to our efforts as an agency to keep the threat and spread of COVID-19 under control. Thank you for dedication and diligence as we manage through this pandemic. We are stronger together, and your work doesn't go unnoticed.

With Sincere Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa J. Lauretano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Lauretano, Chief of Program Operations

