



A letter from our Executive Director:

We currently live in circumstances that create confusion and uncertainty. In spite of the current challenges, I remain optimistic about our future. I'm confident we will weather the storm and continue to be a valued healthcare provider in our community. However, I am concerned about reports of employees not following proper policies and procedures in the care they provide. Failure to be diligent in following standard precautions and utilizing PPE will negatively impact clients, co-workers and the organization. As healthcare providers we have a professional, social and moral obligation to do everything we can to protect each other and our clients.

As the rate of infections increase in Iowa, it is imperative that we follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control, the Iowa Department of Public Health and local, state, and federal leaders. It is essential to follow the social distancing requirements currently in place. It is critical that all Skyline Center employees follow standard precautions and use personal protective equipment. We want you, your families, your co-workers and our clients to be safe and well. Please contact your supervisor if you need re-training on appropriate use of PPE or if you need additional PPE.

As Dr. Emily Landon at University of Chicago Medicine said earlier this week, *"This virus is unforgiving. It spreads before you even know you've caught it and it tricks you into believing that it's nothing more than a little influenza. For many of us, it may be just a little flu so it can be very confusing when schools are closed, restaurants are shuttered and now this virus is taking what's left of our precious liberty. The real problem is not the 80 percent who will get over this in a week. It's the 20 percent of patients, the older, those who are immunocompromised, those that have other medical problems who are going to need a bit more support- some oxygen or even a ventilator and life support."*

We need to fight this fire before it grows too high. But these extreme restrictions may seem in the end a little anticlimactic because it's really hard to feel like you're saving the world when you're watching Netflix on your couch but, if we do this right, nothing happens.... "nothing" means that nothing happened to your family and that's what we are going for here."

The care you provide for our clients is essential. Without you, some of the most vulnerable in society become even more vulnerable. As I said earlier, each of us has a professional, social, and moral responsibility to follow standard precautions and social distancing. If we fail to act responsibly we risk tragedies occurring among those we are called to protect.

Thank you for the care you provide each day and thank you for doing all you can to protect our clients.