



COVID-19 Update

June 5, 2020

In some ways, it was a pleasant surprise that COVID-19 was not the largest topic of conversation this week at Covia. We have no active cases of COVID-19 in any of our communities, so the focus could turn elsewhere.

On the positive side, Covia shared the news of its planned affiliation with Front Porch – a step that would provide greater organizational and financial resources to address and manage coronavirus or other crises.

At the same time, all of us are deeply aware of the protests against police violence taking place in our communities and our nation. This is not a separate issue from COVID-19. George Floyd, who was killed by a police officer on May 25th, had tested positive for coronavirus and survived the disease in April. To survive a pandemic that has disproportionately affected African Americans in this country only to be killed by someone whose job is to serve and protect is a tragedy – and part of a larger problem.

Last Sunday, Kevin Gerber, President and CEO, sent a letter to Covia's staff, tying this issue to Covia's values: "We say that we have been shaped by our values of welcome, inclusion, social justice, and grace. We will do our utmost to demonstrate those values in all that we do." His full letter is posted on Covia's blog at <https://covia.org/blog/black-lives-matter-2/>. Thank you to our residents and staff who work on behalf of justice for all.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us. This week, the task force explored options for baseline and surveillance testing for our skilled nursing facilities and other residents and staff. We also began discussing what guidance we can offer our communities to help them develop protocols to allow visitors while still practicing physical distancing and supporting safety for everyone. These protocols will need to be decided by your Executive Director or Housing Administrator on a community-by-community basis, depending on your location and situation.

For a moment, we believed we might be able to open the Support Services office. On Tuesday, Contra Costa County revised its Health Order to include opening office spaces. However, upon closer inspection, we found that "office workplaces may resume operation when telework is not possible." A survey of our Support Services staff found that a vast majority are successfully working from home, so for the time being, that is where you will find them.

We wish you a safe and healthy week.