

January 24, 2022

Dear staff, participants, caregivers, and friends,

We are writing to keep you fully informed on matters of safety related to the current COVID-19 surge. In the past three days, we've been notified that two of our staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. As is the case with all the other reports of positive COVID-19 test results that we've received, these individuals have documented that their exposure was from sources outside of Elderhaus/Mindset.

One staff member was potentially exposed Wednesday evening, January 19, to a roommate who subsequently tested positive. This staff member then tested positive Friday, January 21. This staff member, though asymptomatic at that time, could have been positive when working at Elderhaus Thursday morning, January 20. This means that participants who were present that morning were potentially exposed.

The second staff member was exposed to a roommate who tested positive Saturday, January 22. This staff member then tested positive Sunday, January 23. This means that there is a slight risk that this staff person, though asymptomatic, could have been positive while working at Elderhaus Thursday and Friday, January 20 and 21.

To be clear, Elderhaus/Mindset has had no documented cases of transmission of COVID-19 in our facility to date. Although a number of staff members and participants have tested positive over the last few weeks, all were able to document the source of their infection from sources outside of Elderhaus, and none of them posed a risk of exposure at Elderhaus. However, we wish to be as forthcoming with information as possible, and to alert all our participants to any potential exposures.

After consulting with medical professionals, we do not believe it is necessary to suspend our operations at this point. *However, we will immediately suspend operations for several days if we suspect any cases of transmission of COVID-19 attributable to our program.* 

We ask your help in several areas:

- (1) Please alert us immediately if any Elderhaus/Mindset participant, or anyone in your family, contracts COVID-19 or has a substantial risk of exposure to someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- (2) Please be vigilant about any potential symptoms consistent with COVID-19. This includes relatively minor symptoms like congestion, a runny nose, or a sore throat. Do not bring your loved one or client to Elderhaus/Mindset if any symptoms are present, or if they have had a risk of exposure to someone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- (3) We are recommending, but not requiring, that anyone who has been present at Elderhaus since Thursday, January 20, take a home test for COVID-19. *We are glad to provide a home test kit if needed.*

As we have noted before, no one can guarantee there will be no risk of infection or transmission of COVID-19 in current conditions. We appreciate your efforts to help us minimize the transmission and effects of COVID-19.

We will keep you informed, and appreciate your keeping us informed. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Tim McLemore Executive Director