



COVID-19 Response Plan

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Life Unlimited is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and persons served. To ensure we have as safe and healthy workplace, we have developed the following COVID-19 Response Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to weight the risk of potential transmission of COVID-19 while still providing care needed for those in our care. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our workers and workplaces.

Supervisors and employees are responsible for implementing and complying with all aspects of this COVID-19 Response Plan. Life Unlimited supervisors have our full support in enforcing the provisions of this policy.

The people we serve, and our employees are our most important assets. We are serious about safety and health and keeping our employees working at Life Unlimited. Employee involvement is essential in developing and implementing a successful COVID-19 Response Plan.

The policies and procedures contained in this plan are intended to supplement existing policies, procedures, and training except where indicated. Where indicated, they supersede existing policies, procedures, or training with the intent of providing additional or more intensive measures to maximize safety.

This plan is a live document and may be revised at any time to meet the needs of the organization, direct the effective delivery of services, and maintain the health and safety of everyone. Changes will be sent in an everyone e-mail and a Therap splash page, but it is the employee's responsibility to keep up with the live version of the plan that is located on the website at: <https://www.lifeunlimitedinc.org/covid-19/>.

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I. Classification of Employee Exposure

Per OSHA, Employee risk of occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, during an outbreak may vary depending on environmental conditions. OSHA has divided job tasks into four risk exposure levels:

- Very high
- High
- Medium
- Lower (caution) risk

The level of risk depends in part on the industry type, need for contact within 6 feet of people known to be, or suspected of being, infected with SARS-CoV-2, or requirement for repeated or extended contact with persons known to be, or suspected of being, infected with SARS-CoV-2.

The Occupational Risk Pyramid shows the four exposure risk levels in the shape of a pyramid to represent probable distribution of risk (see right). Based on the OSHA classifications:



- Employees working exclusively or partly in a direct support role with persons that are not known or suspected to be positive for SARS-CoV-2 are at a Medium exposure risk. An employee exposed to known or suspected SARS-CoV-2 positive persons are at a High exposure risk.
- Administrative employees or employees working outside a direct support role are at a Lower (caution) risk. These positions do not require contact with people known to be, or suspected of being, infected with SARS-CoV-2 nor frequent close contact with (within 6 feet) of the general public as part of the performance of their duties.

II. General Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene is a general term that describes hand washing using soap and water or the use of an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) to destroy harmful pathogens, such as bacteria or viruses, on the hands. Hand hygiene is critical to preventing the spread of SARS-CoV-2.

You should always perform hand hygiene:

- When you arrive for work and when you leave for the day
- Before touching your mouth, nose, or eyes
- Before applying and after removing personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves)
- Before and after providing any type of care
- After contact with intact skin
- After contact with medical equipment or other environmental surfaces that may be contaminated
- During and after trips into the community (see “Community Access” for additional guidelines)

You must perform hand hygiene (hand washing or the use of an ABHR) after contact with bodily fluids, such as urine or blood, mucous membranes, such as the mouth or nose, and non-intact skin. However, if your hands are visibly dirty or contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), you must always wash your hands with soap and water. If a sink is not close by, you may decontaminate your hands with an ABHR, but you must wash them with soap and water as soon as possible. In addition, you must wash your hands:

- Before eating, preparing, handling, or serving food
- After using the restroom or assisting another person with using the restroom, including changing a baby’s diaper
- After providing care to a person with infectious diarrhea, including norovirus, salmonella, shigella, and C. difficile

Handwashing Steps

In order to be effective, you must follow the proper procedure when washing your hands.

1. Check that you have enough soap and disposable towels.
2. Turn on the faucet and make sure the water temperature is warm. Keep the water running so you do not contaminate your hands by repeatedly turning the faucet on and off.
3. Stand back from the sink so you do not contaminate your clothing by splashing water or by touching the side of the sink.
4. Wet your hands thoroughly.
5. Apply an appropriate amount of soap, as recommended by the manufacturer, to your hands.
6. Lather the soap over the top and bottoms of your hands, fingers, and wrists using quick motions. Interlace your fingers to clean between them. According to the CDC, you should continue to lather the soap over all surfaces of the hands and fingers for at least 15 seconds (20 seconds when visibly soiled, before eating, and after using the restroom).
7. Clean your fingernails by rubbing them against the palm of your other hand to force soap under the nails.
8. Rinse your hands well under running water keeping your fingertips pointed downward. Do not shake the water from your hands.
9. Dry your hands thoroughly with a clean disposable towel.
10. Drop the towel in a trashcan without touching the container.
11. Use a clean, dry disposable towel to turn off the faucet.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2009), the entire hand washing process should take 40-60 seconds to complete.

Use of ABHRs

You can use alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHRs) for the routine decontamination of hands except in the circumstances in which washing hands with soap and water is required (see above).

As with hand washing, it is important for you to follow the proper procedure when using ABHRs. Per the World Health Organization:

1. Apply the appropriate amount of product, as recommended by the manufacturer, to the palm of one hand.
2. Once enough product has been applied, rub your hands together to cover your entire palms. Don't forget the sides of your hands, as well. Place your left hand over the back of your right hand and interlace your fingers, and rub clean, trying to clean right between your fingers, and in all the cracks and crevices, and up and down the inside of your fingers. As well, you are aiming to thoroughly clean the back of your hand. Then, place your right hand over the back of your left hand and repeat this procedure.
3. Now reverse and do the insides. Place your palms together, interlace your fingers, and clean both your palms and between your fingers from the inside. You're trying to get right in the cracks and crevices between your fingers as well as ensuring your palms are well cleaned.
4. Now, lock your hands together using your fingers to ensure your palms are opposite each other. Clean the ends of your fingers and nails well, making sure the fluid reaches into the crevices.
5. Now for your thumbs. Grasp your thumb with the forefingers of the opposite hand and clean the thumb you have grabbed well in a twisting motion, then do the same on the other hand. You need to completely clean all surfaces of your thumb down to and including your wrist.
6. Once you feel as if you are really getting your hands clean, you now need to rub in a circular manner with your clasped fingers, into the palm of your hand. Make sure you do this with both of your hands.
7. When your hands are dry of all alcohol-based hand rub, and you are satisfied you have completed the hand rub correctly, your hands should be safe.

This process should take between 20-30 seconds to complete.

The CDC recommends using ABHR with greater than 80% ethanol or 75% isopropanol in healthcare settings, both of which are in the range of alcohol concentrations recommended to inactivate SARS-CoV-2. Although ABHRs are generally less irritating to hands and are effective in the absence of a sink, due to severe shortages of ABHR due to the pandemic, proper handwashing procedures using soap and water should first be used.

Respiratory Hygiene

To ensure proper respiratory hygiene and prevent the spread of germs and COVID-19, all employees and persons served should:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- If a tissue is unavailable, cough or sneeze into your elbow – not your hands;
- Use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of tissues immediately after use;
- Perform hand hygiene (see "Hand Hygiene" section in this plan).

Transmission-Based Precautions

This policy is intended to supplement existing Life Unlimited Health and Safety Policy: 04-001 Bloodborne & Infectious Disease Control Plan. Transmission-based precautions are the second tier of basic infection control and are used in addition to standard precautions for persons who may be infected or colonized with certain infectious agents for which additional precautions are needed to prevent infection transmission. There are three type of precautions that can be applied depending on the way the organism is transmitted. Those categories are:

- Contact precautions
- Droplet precautions
- Airborne precautions

The CDC states: “Although spread of SARS-CoV-2 is believed to be primarily via respiratory droplets, the contribution of small respirable particles to close proximity transmission is currently uncertain. Airborne transmission from person-to-person over long distances is unlikely.”

Contact Precautions

Contact precautions are used to prevent the transmission of illnesses easily spread through contact with the resident or contaminated items in their environment. Direct contact is skin-to-skin contact that occurs when performing resident-care activities in which your hands come in contact with a resident’s skin. Indirect contact occurs when you touch objects in the resident’s environment, such as thermometers, telephones, and light switches that the resident has used. It also includes objects another employee has touched after being in direct contact with the resident.

When a person served is on contact precautions, you will be required to put on gloves and a gown upon entering the room. Remove your gloves and gown and perform hand hygiene before exiting the individual’s room. Be sure to then avoid touching any surfaces upon exiting the room. Remember, additional PPE may be required depending on the type of care you will be performing.

Droplet Precautions

Droplet precautions are used for illnesses that are spread through large droplets from the respiratory tract that float in the air, especially after that individual coughs or sneezes. These droplets can then land on another person’s mucous membranes such as the eyes, nose, or mouth. Illnesses that require droplet precautions include serious diseases such as influenza, mumps, German measles, or rubella, and whooping cough., Additionally, diseases such as meningitis and pneumonia may require the use of droplet precautions depending on the specific organism causing the infection.

When a resident is on droplet precautions, you will be required to put on a mask upon entering the room if you will be within 10 feet of the individual. It is important for you to remember that additional PPE such as gloves and a gown may be required depending on the type of care you will be performing. Remove all PPE including your mask before leaving the room. Be sure to then avoid touching any surfaces upon exiting the room.

Community Transmission Levels

Community Transmission is the metric currently recommended to guide practices in healthcare settings. The Community Transmission metric is different from the COVID-19 Community Level metric used for non-healthcare settings. Life Unlimited will monitor the Community Transmission (CT) metric weekly. Because services through Life Unlimited are community based and provided in both Jackson and Clay counties, either county with “high” community transmission will trigger “high” protocols agency wide regardless of home, program, or activity location.

Mask

The health and safety of employees is our highest priority. This applies to all Community Living homes as well as other program sites and individual based services.–When community transmission is medium or low, employees may choose

to wear masks but are not required to do so.-When community transmission is high, employees will wear masks while in Life Unlimited locations which have contact with individuals served.

Even when community transmission is low or medium, LU employees will wear a KN-95 masks in all locations if:

- The employee has a suspected or confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2.
- The Employee as had close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID within the last 10 days
- The employee is working in a location with a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak. Masks should be work for 14 days past the last confirmed case.
- Employees working in a location with a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak must wear masks at all locations during those 14 days, not just the outbreak location.

Employees are not required to wear masks when working in office or community locations without regular access to individuals served (e.g. office locations) when community transmission levels are low or medium. When community transmission levels are high, all employees will wear masks regardless of work locations when outside of their office/cubicle space.

According to CDC Guidance, an effective mask will:

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- cover mouth and nose at all times

*Please note the following exceptions:

- Employees whose health or safety is put at risk by wearing a mask are not required to do so but are not permitted to be performing work at any program location. If this applies to you, please immediately contact the Christy Schnieders, Director of Nursing (785)817-3121 or cschnieders@luinc.org.
- Employees are permitted to remove their mask when in their own work space (office or cubicle).
- Employees who wish to eat or drink in common areas (conference rooms/kitchen) may remove their mask to do so.

Individuals participating in the Community Living program do not need to wear masks while in their homes receiving services regardless of community transmission level.

Individuals participating in congregated based programs (My Day, Recreation) will still be encouraged to wear masks while participating in programs when community transmission is **high**.

Individuals participating in Community Support, Employment and Behavioral services will be required to wear masks during services when community transmission levels are **high**.

All individuals in all programs will be encouraged to continue to wear masks while out in the community when community transmission is **high**.

Please note: this policy is an addition to our previous communications regarding preventing the spread of COVID-19. All company advice on remote work and social distancing remains in place. Please continue to practice social distancing even when wearing a mask.

The above stated policies are subject to change at any time, and Life Unlimited may implement different or additional requirements or controls on a case-by-case basis if it determines such measures are necessary to protect its individuals served and/or its employees. Failure to adhere to the above stated policy or other policies and procedures related to preventing the spread of COVID-19 will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

III. Procedures and Practices for Social Distancing and Risk Mitigation

The Life Unlimited offices are open to limited visitors required to maintain essential business. Meetings and communication which can be done effectively electronically is still encouraged.

Office Work

Some administrative personnel by necessity spend some time performing work at one of the administrative offices. Due to high levels of employee vaccination rates the follow guidelines have been updated.

Employees who are performing work at an administrative office location are not required to wear masks or physically distance from other co-workers in office locations unless the community transmission level is **high**. When community transmission is high employees should wear masks when outside of their cubicle/office work space. Employees are not required to wear masks or socially distance when gathering outside of administrative offices with other colleagues or coworkers for conferences or events.

Visitors and Community Visits - Community Living

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this policy supersedes Life Unlimited Policy 04-025 Visitors. To minimize potential exposure and risk of spread, and in accordance with CMS [Memorandum](#) (Ref: QSO-20-39-H) and CMS [Memorandum](#) (ref: QSO-20-39-NH) the following protocols are in place for in-person visits Life Unlimited Community Living homes.

All LU locations will have notices posted for visitors prior to entering the home or facility. This notice will instruct all visitors to notify the department supervisor if they have any of the following criteria:

- 1) A positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2
- 2) Symptoms of SARS-CoV-2
- 3) Close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2

Visitors meeting any of the above criteria will be asked to defer non-urgent in-person visitation until they have met the criteria for isolation.

Visitors will be asked to wear a mask when community transmission is **high** when in common areas of the home. Visitors who are alone with an individual in their private bedroom may choose not to wear masks and have close contact even when community transmission is high.

Visitors are allowed into homes during a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak. Visitors will be asked to wear a mask if there is a current SARS-CoV-2 outbreak at the location of the visit regardless of community transmission levels and will be asked that the visits are contained to the private bedroom of the individual.

When community transmission is low or medium, visitors may still choose to wear a mask but are not required to do so.

Any exceptions to this Visitors Policy must be authorized by the Life Unlimited Vice President of Community Living [Mary Davis mdavis@luinc.org], Director of Nursing [Christy Schnieders cschnieders@luinc.org], and the Chief Program Officer [Amy Taylor ataylor@luinc.org]. Considerations should at a minimum include the visitor's community exposure, quarantine period prior to the visit to the home, vaccine status, SARS-CoV-2 status, and individual's ability to socially distance. All decisions regarding community members accessing a program location must also take into consideration all individuals residing or currently present at the program location including their health risks and family wishes. Should permission for community members to visit the program location be granted, a plan for this visit will be discussed with the team and community member visiting. Plans for such reentry and lifting of previous restrictions (i.e. visitor restriction) must be outlined in an ISP addendum and must include a plan to mitigate risk to all individuals residing in the home.

Community Access – Recreational and Leisure Activities

At this time, in accordance with DMH guidance issued on 3/5/21, based largely off CMS guidance QSO-21-14-ICF/IID & PRTFF issued 2/10/21, and CDC guidance for Health Care settings released 9/23/22, Life Unlimited is lifting previous restrictions on community access and will encourage participants to continue to access their community in a safe manner.

Per the CDC, in addition to everyday steps to prevent SARS-CoV-2, the following recommendations are still in place for all individuals during community activities, regardless of vaccinations status:

- Wear well-fitted masks out in the community when community transmission is high
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you experience symptoms
- Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public when community transmission high

Currently, access to the community is not contingent on vaccination status. Individuals and guardians should be aware that individuals who have not been vaccinated are at a heightened risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2 during their community access. Life Unlimited values both the dignity of risk for individuals and their families to make individualized choices regarding health care and vaccination status, as well as full community integration for all individuals served.

Restrictions and deviations from this policy will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Individuals and guardians who wish to receive an exemption from this community access policy (i.e., continue to have restricted community access due to concerns) should contact the Chief Program Officer [Amy Taylor, ataylor@luinc.org], and Director of Nursing [Christy Schnieders cschnieders@luinc.org]. Because access to community activities will not be based on vaccination status, individuals and guardians should be aware that other participants in their programs and community living settings may be also accessing the community without having received the vaccine series. Individuals and guardians who have concerns about this potential risk to themselves or their individual may contact the Chief Program Officer or Director of Nursing.

Life Unlimited will review requests for exceptions to this policy and concerns voice by individuals or guardians on a case-by-case scenario. Review of each request or concern may also include other team members, service coordination, and Service Plan addendums.

Community Access – Work and Day Services

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, participation in congregate community-based settings had been restricted during the pandemic. Effective 3/1/2021, Life Unlimited began to work with individuals and their teams to resume day services at sites where documented COVID-19 mitigation plans are in place for all individuals and guardians who have expressed a desire to return to day services.

Effective 4/20/21 new individuals accepted into the My Day program must be vaccinated regardless of community spread levels. Effective 8/15/22, unvaccinated individuals who participated in My Day services PRIOR to 3/14/20 are allowed to attend My Day regardless of community spread levels.

Effective 8/6/21, unvaccinated individuals will not be able to participate in My Day due to the rise in the delta variant and high level of community spread. Effective 8/6/21 employees working at the My Day sites are also required to be fully vaccinated due the congregate setting of this program.

Any visitors coming to My Day for a visit (i.e., potential participants, service coordinators, etc.) must wear a mask while visiting My Day locations when community transmission is **high**.

Participants at My Day will be encouraged to wear masks when at My Day locations during service when community transmission is **high**.

Participants at My Day will be encouraged to wear masks while on community outings when community transmission is **high**.

Admission into Life Unlimited Programs

Effective 4/20/2021, individual may not be admitted into congregate based LU programs if they have not completed COVID-19 vaccination series or are able/willing to complete the series within 30 days of admission.-This rule applies to Community Living and My Day programs.

For programs which are individually based naturally, the vaccine will not be required for new admissions into the program. These individual based programs at LU include Community Support Options, Employment, Applied Behavioral Analysis (Behavioral Support), and Recreation.

Resumption of Activities Suspended Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

In accordance with the Department of Mental Health Interim Guidance for Individualized Service Planning when Resuming Services or Activities in the Community (5.1.20; 5.11.20) Life Unlimited will participate in Individualized Support Plans and Addendums (known as COVID19 Addendums) to establish how resumption of suspended activities can safely occur. As required by the Department (42 CSF 441.301(c)(2)(vi)(2014)pp.3030) the plan must reflect risk factors and measures in place to minimize risk, including individualized back up plans and strategies when needed.

Life Unlimited management will participate in all Addendums and will physically sign or electronically sign all addendums.

IV. Monitoring and Prompt Identification and Isolation of Sick Persons

Life Unlimited has implemented active screening of persons served and employees for signs and symptoms of illness.

Monitoring Persons Served for Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

Individuals receiving services will be monitored for symptoms of COVID-19. Should symptoms present, department staff will notify the RN assigned to the individuals care (or the department head for individuals not receiving Community Living services) for advice and assistance.

Monitoring Employees for Signs and Symptoms of SARS-CoV-2

Signs will be posted at the entrance of each LU home or office instructing employees to immediately report to their supervisor or the HR team if they meet any of the below criteria:

- 1) A positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2
- 2) Symptoms of SARS-CoV-2
- 3) Close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2

If the employee has met any of the above criteria that employee and LU administration will enact the “Response to Observation of Potential Symptoms and/or Positive Test Result” below.

The employee should clock in using the location’s computer. Because clocking in may occur after work duties have begun, employees should communicate with their direct supervisor so their actual start time is reflected in the agency timekeeping system.

Note: SARS-CoV-2 illness may be mild to severe. Symptoms may appear as soon as 2 days and as long as 14 days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath. Other symptoms include nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea.

Emergency warning signs for SARS-CoV-2 get medical attention immediately. These include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face
- This list is not all inclusive. Consult your medical provider for any other symptom that is severe or concerning.

Testing

Anyone with symptoms of SARS-CoV-2, regardless of vaccination status, should receive a viral test as soon as possible.

Asymptomatic individuals served with close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection should have a series of three vial tests. Testing will be done at day 1, day 3 and day 5 post exposure. Testing should not be done on individuals who have recovered from a SARS-CoV infection within the prior 30 days.

Response to Observation of Potential Symptoms and/or Positive Test Result

Prompt identification and isolation of potentially infectious individuals is a critical step in protecting employees, persons served, and the community at large. Everyone is encouraged to self-monitor and self-report potential symptoms of SARS-CoV-2. For employees who are experiencing symptoms or have had potential exposure, immediate self-reporting is mandatory (see "Employees" section below).

Per CDC recommendation, the organization will notify the appropriate health department promptly notified about:

- Residents or healthcare personnel (HCP) with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2,
- Residents with severe respiratory infection resulting in hospitalization or death, and
- ≥ 3 residents or HCP with new-onset respiratory symptoms within 72 hours of each other.

Person Served:

If a person served has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the following procedures should be followed:

Community Activities, Employment and Day Services:

- Refrain from community activities and recreational/leisure outings for 10 days. If after 10 days symptoms have improved, individuals may resume community activities and outings while wearing a mask.
- Participants who have tested positive and attend My Day are required to quarantine at home until:
 - 10 days have passed since the positive test, symptoms have improved, and a test done on the 10th day is negative OR
 - 14 days have passed since the positive test and symptoms have improved. If symptoms have not improved after 14 days, additional testing may be required and resumption of My Day services would be at the discretion of the Director of Nursing and Director of My Day.
- Participants who are employed in the community or attend outside day programs must adhere to guidelines and policies outlined by those entities.

Residential Setting:

- Bedroom and bathroom
 - Keep separate bedroom and bathroom for a person who is sick (if possible).
 - The person who is sick should stay separated from other people in the home (as much as possible).
 - If you have a separate bedroom and bathroom: Wear disposable gloves and only clean the area around the person who is sick when needed, such as when the area is soiled. This will help limit your contact with the person who is sick.

- Caregivers can provide personal cleaning supplies to the person who is sick (if appropriate). Supplies include tissues, paper towels, cleaners, and EPA-registered disinfectants. If they feel up to it, the person who is sick can clean their own space.
 - If shared bathroom: The person who is sick should clean and disinfect after each use. If this is not possible, the caregiver should wait as long as possible before cleaning and disinfecting.
 - Food
 - Stay separated: The person who is sick should eat (or be fed) in their room if possible.
 - If possible, use disposable dishes and utensils. If those are not available, wash dishes and utensils using disposable gloves and hot water: Handle any used dishes, cups/glasses, or silverware with gloves. Wash them with soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.
 - Clean hands after taking off gloves or handling used items.
 - Trash
 - Dedicated, lined trash can: If possible, dedicate a lined trash can for the person who is sick. The trash can should be kept in the same room as the isolated person. Use disposable gloves when removing garbage bags, and handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands afterwards.

Employees:

Per [CDC recommendations](#) released 12/23/21 and updated 9/23/22 the following work restrictions for employees with SARS-CoV-2 Infections and Exposures will be implemented:

Work Restrictions for HCP with SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Vaccination Status	Conventional	Contingency	Crisis
Boosted, Vaccinated, or Unvaccinated	10 days, OR 7 days with negative test, if asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic (with improving symptoms)	5 days with/without negative test, if asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic (with improving symptoms)	No work restrictions, with prioritization considerations (e.g. asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic)

Work Restrictions for Asymptomatic HCP with Exposures

Vaccination Status	Conventional	Contingency	Crisis
Boosted, Vaccinated or Unvaccinated	No work restrictions	No work restrictions	No work restrictions

The strategy levels identified above are defined as followed for Life Unlimited:

Conventional: Community Level determined by CDC is Low and/or current agency openings < 8% openings

Contingency: Community Level determined by CDC is Medium or High and/or current agency opening <15%

Crisis: Community Level determined by CDC is Medium or High and/or current agency opening >15%.

Prioritization Considerations utilized for Crisis strategy:

When an employee tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 and the agency is utilizing the crisis strategy, prioritization considerations when considering how and if to utilize the employee. Directors for each program will be involved in the decision of how to utilize the employee and will take into consideration other current positive cases at the agency, overall health and medical conditions of individuals being served at locations being considered, and risk associated with service disruption and/or new staff providing services.

The strategy level of the agency will be evaluated monthly by the Executive Committee of Life Unlimited. This plan will be updated monthly to reflect the current strategy level.

Effective 2/6/23 Life Unlimited is utilizing crisis strategies.

Employee

If an employee has been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 due to employee's household member receiving a SARS-CoV-2+ test result (classified as an "exposure"):

1. The employee will immediately notify Human Resources [primary contact: Erin Santeusanio (913) 617-4294 esanteusanio@luinc.org, secondary contacts: Brian Bentrop (816) 419-0900 bbentrop@luinc.org or Susie Schneider (816) 214-7420, sschneider@luinc.org.
2. HR will contact Employee immediately to verify the situation.
3. HR will contact Director of Nursing
4. HR will contact Employee's Manager & Director.
5. Work restriction will be determined based off of the agency's current strategy level and vaccination status of employee.
 - a. Directors will strongly consider all exposed employees who work from an office location work from home instead for at least five (5) days unless there is a strong argument for service disruption to individuals served during that time which requires an employee to be at the office location. LU strongly encourages employees who work remotely during their COVID exposure be tested at five (5) days before returning to the office. Employees who return to the office setting must wear a KN95 mask up to day ten (10).
6. Employee will be advised to isolate the positive household member, if possible.
7. Employee must submit the Employee Self-Certification Form to Human Resources upon their return to work.

If Employee tests positive for SARS-CoV-2:

1. The employee will immediately notify Human Resources [primary contact: Erin Santeusanio (913) 617-4294 esanteusanio@luinc.org, secondary contacts: Brian Bentrop (816) 419-0900 bbentrop@luinc.org or Susie Schneider (816) 214-7420, sschneider@luinc.org.
2. HR will contact Employee's Manager & Director.
3. HR will notify the Director of Nursing, Chief Employee Engagement Officer, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Programs Officer, Director of IT, VP of Maintenance, and VP of Training.
4. HR will notify Director of Nursing of the test results.
5. The employee may be placed on work restrictions based off of the agency's current strategy level and vaccination status of employee. The Director of the employees department will make this decision with HR based on prioritization considerations outlined above.
 - a. Directors will strongly consider all positive employees who work from an office location work from home for at least five days unless there is a strong argument for service disruption to individuals served during that time which requires an employee to be at the office location. Employees who work remotely during their SARS-CoV-2 illness must wear masks when inside the office (all areas) up to day ten (10).
6. HR and the Director will notify other employees who had close contact with the positive employee.

- a. For employees providing direct services to individuals in programs, the Director and DON will determine what work restrictions (if any) and testing are applicable based on the current strategy level and prioritization consideration.
 - b. For employees working in office locations, the Director will encourage to work from home for five (5) days unless there is a strong argument for service disruption to individuals served during that time which requires an employee to be at the office location. Employees can return to the office after five (5) days and LU strongly recommends they test prior to returning to the office location. Employees exposed to another employee positive for COVID will wear a mask up to day ten (10).
7. Employee must submit the Employee Self-Certification Form to Human Resources before return to work.

If Employee Requests Leave of Absence Due to High-Risk for SARS-CoV-2:

1. Employee will submit Personal Leave of Absence request to HR. Additional documentation may be required.
2. CEO will approve/deny request.
3. Employee must submit the Employee Self-Certification Form to Human Resources before return to work.

Note: Life Unlimited reserves the right to amend criteria to return to work at any time due to other circumstances (availability of testing, etc.). In times of staffing crisis, LU may follow the CDC's guidelines for healthcare professionals and allow employees who have tested positive to work, with prioritization considerations (ex: asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic).

If an employee has SARS-CoV-2 ruled out and have an alternate diagnosis (e.g., tested positive for influenza), criteria for return to work should be based on that diagnosis.

All employees need to self-monitor for symptoms and seek re-evaluations if symptoms recur or worsen and notify Human Resources [primary contact: Erin Santeusanio (913) 617-4294 esanteusanio@luinc.org, secondary contacts: Brian Bentrop (816) 419-0900 bbentrop@luinc.org or Susie Schneider (816) 214-7420, sschneider@luinc.org].

V. Communications and Training

Updated Training Requirements

The following trainings were assigned to all Life Unlimited employees on March 12, 2020:

- Hand Hygiene: The Basics (REL-ALL-0-HHB)
- Infection Control: The Basics (REL-ALL-0-ICBASIC)
- Transmission-Based Precautions (REL-SRC-0-TBP)

Training Procedures Revisions

New Employee Orientation

The Training Department continues to conduct New Employee Orientation on a weekly basis. New hires are coming to the Broadway administrative office on day one for a general introduction and orientation to completing online training modules. If a new hire does not have a computer, the Training Department can check out laptop computers to them. New hires then complete all their required training modules online from home. If an individual does not have computer or internet access, the Training Department can make arrangements for them to complete their online training modules at the Broadway administrative office, adhering to all social distancing and office work guidelines.

Orientation training modules include:

Training	Estimated Time for Completion (Hrs)
HCBS and Rights of Persons Served (LU-HCBSRIGHTS)	0.5
Defensive Driving: The Basics (REL-CV-0-DDTB)	0.75
Bloodborne Pathogens (REL-ALL-0-BBPATH)	1
Code of Conduct (LU-CODEOFCONDUCT)	0.25
Abuse and Neglect of Individuals with I/DD (REL-IDD-0-ABIDD)	1
Employee Handbook (LU-EMPLOYEEHANDBOOK)	0.25
Cultural Competence (REL-ALL-0-CDIV)	1
Sexual Harassment for Employees (REL-ALL-0-SHEMP)	1
Workplace Safety: The Basics (REL-ALL-0-WSTB)	1
Bon Appetit! An Overview of Safe Eating and Drinking Focused Learning (RI-IDD-0-CSE)	1
Principles and Practices of Effective Direct Supports (REL-IDD-OADSP-PPEDS)	1
Workplace Violence (REL-ALL-0-WRKVLN)	1
Nutrition and Exercise Focused Learning (REL-IDD-0-NE)	1
Fire Safety: The Basics (REL-ALL-0-FSBASIC)	1
Disabilities Overview (REL-DISOV-DD-0)	1
Person-First Language (REL-IDD-0-DSPCCMS-2)	1
Welcome to Relias (REL-HR-0-WRLMS-V2)	0.25
HIPAA: The Basics (REL-ALL-0-HBASIC)	1
Principles of Positive Behavior Support for DSPs Part 1: Overview (REL-IDD-AAIDD-OPPBS1)	1
	16

COVID19-specific training modules include:

Training	Estimated Time for Completion
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	(Hrs)
Hand Hygiene: The Basics (REL-ALL-0-HHB)	1
Infection Control: The Basics (REL-ALL-0-ICBASIC)	1
Transmission-Based Precautions (REL-SRC-0-TBP)	1
	3

The following Life Unlimited-specific modules are also assigned:

Training	Estimated Time for Completion (Hrs)
LU Self-Study Module: Missouri Quality Outcomes	0.25
LU Self-Study Module: Abuse and Neglect Identification and Reporting	0.5
LU Self-Study Module: Medical Support	1
LU Self-Study Module: Maintenance and Safety	0.5
LU Self-Study Module: Introduction to Life Unlimited	0.25
LU Self-Study Module: Introduction to Disabilities	0.5
LU Self-Study Module: Incident Reporting	0.5
LU Self-Study Module: HIPAA	0.5
LU Self-Study Module: Finances	0.5
LU Self-Study Module: Documentation (Parts I and II)	2
LU Self-Study Module: NADSP Credentialing	0.25
LU Self-Study Module: Person Centered Support and Rights	0.5
LU Self-Study Module: Personal Care and Support	0.5
LU Self-Study Module: Proliant (timekeeping)	0.25
LU Self-Study Module: Philosophy of Supervision (for supervisors only)	6
	14

All new hires are also assigned [see below for those specific procedures]:

Training	Estimated Time for Completion (Hrs)
Level One Medication Aide	20
Task Delegation	4
Mandt	6
CPR First Aid	5
	35

Once an employee has completed all their required online training modules, the Training Department emails the new hire's Program Manager and Program Director notifying them the new hire has "graduated" orientation and is ready to do shadow training. The Program Manager then contacts the new hire and schedules the shadow training. Shadow training is provided to new hires at their specific program location. The Shadow Training Checklist is completed and logged within Relias Learning. At the time of graduation, the Training Department also signs them up for the next available Level One Medication Aide and Task Delegation trainings.

Mandt training

Initial certification (new) and expired certification

- Employees that are certifying for the first time or are currently expired are completing the Mandt relational (Chapters 1-3) and conceptual (Chapters 4-6) content through the Mandt System e-learning platform. Certification on Chapters 7-9 (physical skills) will be completed later once we have further guidance on the COVID-19 situation.
- Procedure:

- New hire: Cassie (Training Department) assigns and employee receives a direct email from Mandt with instructions for completing.
- Current employee who has expired: Employee should email training@luinc.org to get registered by Cassie.

Recertification (not expired)

- Employees recertifying in Mandt (not expired) are taking a Life Unlimited-specific Mandt recertification training module within Relias Learning.
- Procedure: Employee should email training@luinc.org to get registered by Cassie. If the training is not completed by their expiration date, they must do the full certification.

CPR First Aid

Initial certification (new)

- Employees taking CPR First Aid for the first time or are recertifying are assigned the provisional courses through the American Red Cross online system. American Red Cross indicates, “new and re-certifying customers can take the online portion of a blended learning course and receive a certificate stating that the student has 90 days to successfully complete a skill check to receive full certification. This skills check will be completed later once we have further guidance on the COVID-19 situation.
- Procedure:
 - New hire: Tena (Training Department) assigns and sends them an email with instructions on how to complete through Red Cross. Once completed, the student must email a copy of their Certificate of Completion to training@luinc.org. Once received, you change their due date to 90 days out and will mark complete as soon as we are able to do the physical skills testing.

Level One Medication Aide training

Initial certification (new)

- This full training is now offered in person only.

Update training

- The update training is now offered in person only.

Task Delegation training

- This full training is now offered in person only.

Plan Communication and Ongoing Training

This COVID-19 Response Plan was communicated to all employees via presentation at Zoom all-staff meeting on May 20, 2020, Relias Learning on May 22, 2020, and postings in the Therap electronic documentation system and Proliant on May 22, 2020. Additional communication and training will be ongoing and provided to all employees who did not receive the initial training through scheduled weekly webinars.

Supervisors are expected to monitor how effective the program has been implemented by:

- Direct observation
- Check-ins with supervisees and other appropriate program personnel
- Review of program documentation, including but not limited to review of Therap electronic documentation, Medication Administration Checklists, and cleaning checklists.

This plan will be updated as necessary.

VI. Appendix

Employee Monitoring Log

COVID-19 Employee Self-Certification to Return to Work

Shopping List / Request Form

EMPLOYEE LOG – Life Unlimited Program Locations ONLY.		
Location:	Date:	Time:
Staff coming on shift:	Temperature:	
Staff name taking temperature:		
Presence of any symptoms in staff (cough, difficulty breathing, other?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Initials:
Do I reside in a residence where another individual has exhibited potential signs or symptoms of illness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Are you aware of any potential exposure elsewhere to a person who has exhibited potential signs or symptoms of illness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
ALL EMPLOYEES MUST WASH/SANITIZE HANDS UPON ENTERING ANY LIFE UNLIMITED LOCATION. THANKS!		
<p>If you checked "Yes" to any of the above screening questions, please speak with your Director for further instructions BEFORE you enter this LU site. In accordance with our current LU Covid Response Plan Staffing Strategy Level, your director will advise you on next steps based on prioritization considerations. *If you do not have a Director, please contact our main number at (816)474-3026 and ask to speak with any member of our Health or HR team.</p> <p>If you checked "no" to all questions you may proceed into the LU site.</p>		

EMPLOYEE LOG – Life Unlimited Office Locations ONLY.		
Location:	Date:	Time:
Staff coming on shift:	Temperature:	
Staff name taking temperature:		
Presence of any symptoms in staff (cough, difficulty breathing, other?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Initials:
Do I reside in a residence where another individual has exhibited potential signs or symptoms of illness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Are you aware of any potential exposure elsewhere to a person who has exhibited potential signs or symptoms of illness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
ALL EMPLOYEES MUST WASH/SANITIZE HANDS UPON ENTERING ANY LIFE UNLIMITED LOCATION. THANKS!		
<p>If you checked "Yes" to any of the above screening questions, please speak with your Director for further instructions BEFORE you enter this LU site. In accordance with our current LU Covid Response Plan Staffing Strategy Level, your director will advise you on next steps based on prioritization considerations. *If you do not have a Director, please contact our main number at (816)474-3026 and ask to speak with any member of our Health or HR team.</p> <p>If you checked "no" to all questions you may proceed into the LU site.</p>		

COVID-19 Employee Self-Certification to Return to Work

I, _____, attest to the following:

I have had no fever for at least three days (72 hours) without taking medication to reduce fever during that time.

Date of last fever of 100.4 degrees or higher: _____ (write N/A if no fever within last two weeks)

My respiratory symptoms (cough and shortness of breath) have improved.

Date respiratory symptoms began improving: _____ (write N/A if no symptoms present)

At least ten days have passed since my fever and/or respiratory symptoms began.

Date fever and/or respiratory symptoms began: _____

I will self-monitor for any COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days and report any symptoms to my immediate supervisor and the Nursing Department.

Employee name: _____

Employee signature: _____

Today's date: _____

Date returned to work: _____

Employee and Visitor Log – Life Unlimited Office Locations ONLY.

Location:	Date:	Time:
Staff coming on shift:	Temperature:	
Staff name taking temperature:		
Presence of any symptoms in staff (cough, difficulty breathing, other?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No Initials:
Do I reside in a residence where another individual has exhibited potential signs or symptoms of illness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you aware of any potential exposure elsewhere to a person who has exhibited potential signs or symptoms of illness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Did staff entering home wash their hands immediately?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No Initials:
<p>If you checked “Yes” to any of the above screening questions, <u>do not enter the location</u>, and immediately contact Human Resources: <u>primary contact:</u> Erin Santeusanio (913) 617-4294 esanteusanio@luinc.org <u>secondary contact:</u> Susie Schneider (816) 214-7420, sschneider@luinc.org If you checked “no” to all questions you may proceed with your visit.</p>		
Are you vaccinated against COVID-19?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>If you checked yes to the above question, you are <u>not</u> required to wear a face mask in the Life Unlimited Office locations UNLESS you are in direct contact with an individual served through our agency during your visit. If this direct contact occurs, you must wear a face mask regardless of vaccination status.</p>		