

September 16, 2020

Dear CRC Community,

I want to thank you for your outpouring of support to our staff and persons served during this healthcare crisis. Many have shown support by sending notes of appreciation, phone calls, sending delicious food to the group homes, planting flowers outside the homes, and donating to our COVID-19 Relief Fund. This is greatly appreciated by everyone at the Charles River Center.

The COVID-19 health crisis has challenged our community in many ways. Persons served and their families have adapted to receive supports provided by Charles River and our dedicated staff have worked tirelessly to keep everyone safe and healthy.

In preparation for the possibility of a surge in COVID-19 cases, we will continue to adhere and follow guidance from the state and do everything possible to stay safe and healthy. The health and safety of persons served, their families, and Charles River Center employees remain our number one priority.

Recently, Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) issued a surveillance testing guidance for organizations that operate residential congregate care programs. [Congregate Care Surveillance Testing Guidance](#) This means, all residential staff at the Charles River Center, who work with persons served must receive a baseline COVID-19 test prior to September 30th. Additionally, all new staff hired must be tested. Staff who test positive will not return to work until they have met the quarantine and/or standards set by the state. Under this guidance, persons served will continue to be tested when they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and when they are in close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Staff will be tested every two weeks if or when our Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Region VI rises to level 2 in the future. Please refer to the link above for more details.

I am grateful for you and our incredible staff who will continue to adapt, learn, and grow together. With your continued support and understanding, we will emerge from this healthcare crisis with a renewed sense of community, as we truly are all in this together.

Be well,

Anne-Marie Bajwa
President and CEO