

## CoronaVirus Update 3/18/2020

Dear GTS Community,

First and foremost we sincerely hope that you and your family members are safe, healthy, and managing these uncertain times as well as possible.

Everything we do is guided by our mission to empower people with disabilities to thrive within their home and community. This includes an obligation to do all we can to limit the Coronavirus- to help “flatten the curve,” so that we can all return stronger and more prepared than ever.

During this time of uncertainty, we want to help in any way that we can. If any individuals need to adjust their schedules, please let us know. Some people have requested an increase in services and we will do our best to accommodate these requests as much as possible. Similarly, if you need to temporarily suspend services, please let us know. We are in this together and want to be as flexible and understanding as possible for our GTS community.

We wanted to again update everyone on precautions we will be taking going forward:

We are asking all clients and staff to stay home if they are feeling sick. We will be as flexible as possible with all scheduling for both clients and staff.

We are increasing hand washing and hand sanitizing at all locations upon entering and leaving, as well as after activities. We have created “sanitation stations” in each office to enforce this practice. These are areas where staff and/or clients can put items that need to be cleaned thoroughly.

We have increased deep cleaning after hours in all locations, as well as having staff clean several times throughout the day. This includes all door knobs, faucets, flat surfaces, etc....

Our goal is to have the cleanest and most sanitary environment possible. Our team is working tirelessly to create a safe environment for all.

We will be teaching clients about the CoronaVirus, how to wash hands effectively, teaching about social distancing, and providing as much education and reassurance as we can. This will be done through social stories, videos, and other teaching techniques to help calm any fears and educate how to take care of themselves, as well as others.

**Drop off services** - We are enforcing a “Drop Off Service”. This means our offices will be only for staff and individuals being supported. Staff will come outside and let people in and assist children into the clinics. This is to decrease exposure to everyone and to assist us in keeping a sanitized setting.

**Section 28** - We will be keeping all staff and clients out of public settings (ie no gyms, library, etc....). We will encourage staff to be active in getting children outside whenever possible but the remainder of services will be performed in the person’s home. If this is a concern, we will do everything we can to be flexible. ***We are also exploring telehealth services for individuals that need some form of socialization, but are having to quarantine - if you are interested in these please contact us.*** This has not been approved by DHHS as of yet, but we are exploring options.

**Pediatric Clinics** - Our pediatric Occupational and Speech Therapy clinics are moving to telehealth format for as many clients as possible. This means that your child’s therapist will lead his/her occupational or speech therapy session in your home via any computer device with internet access and a camera, including smartphones or tablets. At this time, only our OT clinic will still be open for clients who cannot or do not wish to use telehealth services. In the OT clinics, in addition to the above mentioned precautions, we have removed all fabric items that cannot be cleaned as easily out of the settings temporarily. If you want to alter your schedule, either adding visits or changing to a new time due to personal scheduling changes, please let us know. Each in clinic treatment session will also be shortened by approximately 5 minutes to allow staff to disinfect the clinic and tools used.

**Community Supports** - GTS will be having most services occur at the office because we can control this setting more effectively through cleaning and controlling visitors. We will also complete as many outside activities as possible, so please bring warm clothes and be prepared for the weather. Staff will also be proactive in cleaning vehicles and the

office setting. If you need adjustments to your schedule let us know. All participants will also be hand washing and sanitizing upon entering and leaving. If there is a transportation closure, we will do our best to assist all individuals with getting to and from program if needed. *We are also exploring telehealth services for individuals that need some form of socialization, but are having to quarantine - if you are interested in these please contact us.*

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. If we can help in any way, please reach out. Together we can get through this and show how strong our community is.