A Message to the Community:

As the COVID-19 (Corona) Virus continues to have community spread, I along with program and executive management of the New Jersey Institute for Disabilities (NJID) have taken proactive measures to help ensure the health and well-being of NJID’s consumers, families, employees and friends. Below is a brief summary of the decisions that have been made to protect NJID’s constituents as well as the Agency itself.

• Currently, all NJID programs remain open. Students and adults will remain in their designated program site and all community-based trips have been postponed or cancelled through May 1. This will reduce risk of exposure to coronavirus pathogens in public places.

• All volunteer opportunities and non-essential visits and tours have been cancelled until further notice. If a person has an essential visit scheduled, they will be required to complete a Health Screening Questionnaire before they are admitted to the facility. Access to program areas will be extremely limited. No walk-in or unscheduled visitors will be permitted at all NJID sites.

• All preliminary recruitment for open positions at NJID will be managed through electronic communications, limiting visitation to the final phase of the hiring process. No job recruits will have access to the Administration Building until further notice.

• All NJID program sites are equipped with necessary supplies and materials required by OSHA for the handling of viral and bacterial pathogens. NJID programs are fully stocked with appropriate supplies. At all program sites there is increased attention to cleaning and maintenance protocols; this includes NJID-operated vehicles.

• Most NJID sponsored events have been modified, postponed or cancelled. Information can be found on the NJID website or by calling the NJID Events Line at (732) 549-6187 x 1500.

NJID’s policies and procedures are consistent with guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and the New Jersey Department of Health. All NJID staff have been trained regarding the use of Universal Precautions to guard against infections. Employees who are sick and exhibiting symptoms of cold or flu are directed to remain at home until recovery.

As you can imagine, this COVID-19 scenario is a fluid situation with events and conditions changing almost daily. Updates and announcements will be made through the NJID website as they occur.

During this time of unease caused by the COVID-19 Virus, I want to reassure you that the NJID family is united in our efforts to continue providing programs of excellence and compassionate care to all who participate in our services.

If you have any questions please feel free to email info@NJID.org or call (732) 590-1800. Additional guidance can be found at www.NJ.gov/health or www.CDC.gov.

Very truly yours,

Dominic M. Ursino
President
March 12, 2020