

The Role of the DSP and the Coronavirus

Please consider the following when discussing the current situation with individuals supported:

Important Reminder: Individuals with/without compromised communications skills pick up on environmental cues around them. Assume that they ARE aware that people/staff around them are acting differently—help them understand why. Make time to explain current events and commit to updating them as conditions change. Use an already established house-meeting, or call a special house-meeting, to discuss and train individuals on best practices.

Train on --DO THE FIVE--Help stop coronavirus

- 1 HANDS--Wash them often
- 2 ELBOW--Cough into it
- 3 FACE--Don't touch it
- 4 FEET--Stay more than 6ft apart
- 5 FEEL--sick? Tell Staff/Stay home

Use the suggestions below to guide the conversation:

- Communicate information & Be POSITIVE.
- Stay informed—be a source for factual information. Participate in regular updates provided by local leadership.
- Know your audience--avoid language or topics that may trigger maladaptive behaviors.
- Use language that each individual can/will understand.
- Most importantly answer questions honestly—avoid spreading gossip. Speak only TRUTH.
- Use reassuring language.
- Use the provided posters/visual aids to educate individuals in service. If needed, create additional visual aids, draw pictures, or ROLE MODEL by acting out recommended handwashing techniques.
- Include individuals in routine, sanitizing of the home/service site.
- Take time during daily routines to reinforce hygienic practices.
 - the importance of repeat handwashing
 - avoiding contact with face
 - encouraging social distancing.
- Recognize that individuals will pick up on frenzy and panic easily, even individuals who are more non-verbal, and/or more intellectually challenged.
- Be mindful of your own behavior and how individuals are interpreting your action/inaction.
- Refrain from talking about your own fears and concerns over the spread of the disease in earshot of those supported.

And ALWAYS REMEMBER, YOU are highly valued as an essential member of the BrightSpring service delivery TEAM. Your role as a Direct Support Professional has a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of the individuals we serve and your commitment to ensuring Quality Standards is critical. Thank you for all you do!