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Redwood Falls, MN • Human Services 507-637-4050 • Health Services 507-637-4041

To our community partners,

We are writing with an update regarding COVID-19 and the ongoing health situation in our community. Right now, we are experiencing a Public Health Infectious Disease Emergency not only in Minnesota, but all over the world. We want to ensure the health and safety for not only our staff, but everyone within Southwest Health and Human Services 6 counties (Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock). To protect the public's health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19, we are encouraging that everyone practice social distancing.

Social distancing is the practice of reducing close contact between people to slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease, like the Coronavirus. We, at SWHHS, are following MDH and CDC guidelines and recommendations.

We are encouraging that everyone practices safe social distancing by:

- Postponing meetings to more than 6 weeks from now if possible.
- Utilizing conference calls instead of face-to-face meetings.
- Staying home when you are sick.
- Encouraging employees to stay home when they are sick and provide sick leave options.
- Implementing changes to visitor policies to further limit exposures to providers, residents, and patients.
- Implementing phone triage and telemedicine to limit unnecessary healthcare visits.
- If you are out in public, practice social distancing of at least 6 feet from another person.

Please do not come into the SWHHS office if you or a family member is sick with a cough, fever, or shortness of breath. Please call prior to any visits that you may have at SWHHS. We are encouraging people to use our mail drop box or the USPS rather than coming into the offices at this time.

Our top priority is the health and safety of our clients, staff, and the community. With that being said, it is best to try and avoid unnecessary contact with others, especially large groups. We understand this can be difficult, but we encourage everyone to practice safe social distancing whenever possible. We are constantly reviewing the updated data and evaluating our policies and procedures. Please call with any questions.

The latest information can be found at these reliable sources:

[www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19) and

[ww.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html](http://ww.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html)

Thank you so much for you time and understanding.

For more questions, contact one of the offices listed above.

*Carol Biren*

Carol Biren

CHS Director/Public Health Director