

Hi again everyone

We've had it suggested that we have people move into group homes for the duration of the pandemic to avoid the comings and goings of multiple staff. Others have suggested that we limit people to working in a single home, or run with skeletal staff for the same reason. Having sent out multiple individual responses, its probably time to express management's position agency-wide. We do not think these suggestions can be successfully implemented.

If enough people volunteered to move into group homes, which we think is unlikely, what would we do with non-volunteers? They would be effectively laid off. As for limiting people to working in only one home, this has never worked for us in the best of times. When someone phones in sick and the call goes out, it is not always answered by someone else who works in the same location. Over the years we've made all kinds of rules based on good intentions, like Casuals can only work in Group A or Group B, but reality always forced us to break those rules in short order.

The skeletal staffing idea is problematic because the folks we support really do need support. Each location is unique of course, but some people are struggling with the current restrictions and we don't believe now is the time to skimp on the services we provide.

We think the important thing is that we all practice social distancing and enhanced hygiene in our private and professional lives. The 6 foot rule and hand washing are critically important. There are lots and lots of essential services operating just as we're doing. We're relying on them daily for our food, for the medicines we need, and in order to keep our homes and vehicles maintained. These other local heroes are not moving into their places of work. It is possible to come to work and go home again safely.

In closing, thank you for your dedication and tireless work in these unprecedented times.

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