



## **UNC Horizons plan for moving people into the residence during COVID-19**

Authors: Elisabeth Johnson and Lyla Kolman

It is important that we all remember that while we are following the guidance of the CDC, NC Health officials and UNC Health, we want to create a welcoming environment for our new mothers and children. Remember that when we have on masks, our usual warm smiles are not as visible. Thus, we have to work just a little more to keep women and children staff safe while also making everyone feel welcomed to the Horizons community.

### **Residential Self-Isolation Protocol**

- As staff is working with a mother prior to moving the family into the residence, staff will clearly explain that due to the current pandemic, she and her child(ren) will need to self-isolate in their apartment for 14 days. Staff will describe what this process will include (see below).
- On the day prior to admission, staff will call the mother and ask if she or her child(ren) have cough, fever, shortness of breath, have lost taste or smell or has known exposure to someone who has tested + for COVID-19
- Move In Day
  - As during all times of their shift, all staff should be wearing masks and practicing social distancing as much as possible.
  - Staff will greet the family OUTSIDE the office. Staff will ask if the mother and/or her child(ren) have a cough, fever, loss of taste or smell or shortness of breath.
  - Mother and child will have their temperatures taken before entering any Horizons buildings. If the mother or any of her children has a fever or is coughing, call the on-call medical person right away.
  - If mother and child(ren) do not have fevers, are not coughing, and are free of COVID-19 signs, then the admission may continue.
  - RAs will use gloves to search all of mother and child's belongings.
  - Complete all intake paperwork in a space that allows for social distancing.
  - Staff will give the mother and her children a cloth mask to wear and explain that they should wear the masks when going to the office, grocery shopping or is outside in a situation where they will be less than 6 feet away from another person.
- Days 2-14
  - As our new families are adjusting to treatment and especially to treatment during COVID-19, it is important that we check and interact with them multiple times throughout the day.
  - As much as possible, any medications needed by mother or child will be taken to their apartment. Any other medical attention needed (taking temperatures, blood pressure, etc.) should be done at the woman's apartment.
  - If the mother needs to come to the office, she should first be asked if she and/or her child(ren) have a cough, fever, loss of taste and smell or shortness of breath. If the answer is no, she must wear her cloth mask to come to the apartment.

- The mother should not have other people visit her apartment, nor should she enter any other people's apartment.
- When possible Urine for drugs testing will be collected in the mother's apartment. Prior to entering the apartment, if the mother has not already been asked during that day, staff will ask if the client and/or her child(ren) have a cough, fever, loss of taste and smell or shortness of breath. If the mother and her child(ren) screen negative, staff may enter the apartment to complete the urine collection. If staff are uncomfortable doing this, they are to alert their supervisor and the on-call medical person. If necessary, the medical person will come to the residence to collect the urine.
- Shopping will either be done for mother or the mother will be transported only with her children (with no other patients) to the grocery store. She and her children must wear cloth masks during the trip to the grocery store.

Again, I thank each of you for being here and all that you are doing to care for the women and children in the UNC Horizons residential program. We could not do this life saving work without each one of you.