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COVID-19 Statement: April 25, 2020

Yesterday, April 24, we were informed that one of our volunteers has tested positive for COVID-19.  This individual was last in the warehouse of the High Grove Lane location the morning of Tuesday, April 21, and has been off-site since that time.

First and foremost, our hearts are with this volunteer during this challenging time, and we wish them a swift recovery.  We will continue to be in communication, and the volunteer will not return to Loaves & Fishes for an extended period of time.

During the time of their volunteer shift, this individual complied with CDC guidelines (which are in effect for every staff and volunteer member).  All staff and volunteers will continue to take all precautionary measures we have put into place, including thorough handwashing/sanitizing, wearing gloves and masks, and practicing social distancing. To abide by CDC guidelines, and the State of Illinois mandates, we previously significantly reduced the number of people working and volunteering in our facilities.

We have notified those who were in contact with this individual during their shift; as a precautionary measure, they will isolate and self-monitor for symptoms. Since this volunteer last volunteered on April 21, we are aware of no other volunteers or staff members showing COVID-19 symptoms.

We will continue to take these steps to protect the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, and clients during these times:

* An adapted grocery delivery model to offer curbside pick-up. This modified system uses less people to keep clients, volunteers, and staff as safe as possible
* Rigorous daily sanitization of all common areas and equipment plus additional and intensified professional cleanings
* Contact-free volunteer check-in with no use of time-clock computers or name badges
* Volunteers must confirm a personal health assessment before each shift
* During their shifts, staff and volunteers wear gloves and masks in the warehouse, outside, and anytime they are interacting with the public
* Physical distancing protocols require social distancing inside and outside all our facilities
* Work-from-home arrangements for employees who can fulfill their responsibilities remotely, maintaining only “critical role” individuals in our building, again, reducing the number of people in the building

The health and safety of our clients, volunteers and staff is our top priority, and as an essential service, we seek to continue to serve the rising number of families in need in our community.