

ALERT!!

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Now that flu season is upon us, how does it impact Waiver providers and consumers??

If you have not personally been affected by the Flu this season you, undoubtedly, know someone who has been affected! As a Waiver provider or consumer, what do you need to know?

CONSUMER HAS THE FLU

Many providers may be concerned about working in a home where the consumer or other household members of the consumer have acquired the flu virus or have flu-like symptoms. Providers are expected to implement Universal Precaution techniques at all times while on duty. While use of protective gear (masks, gloves, gowns, hand sanitizer solutions, etc.) is not mandatory and may not be necessary, agency providers may offer such supplies to its employees and non-agency providers may obtain such supplies from a Medical supply company, if desired. Providers should explain to consumers that use of these items is for the protection of the provider her/himself and well as the consumer.

PROVIDER HAS THE FLU

To avoid spreading the flu virus to consumers and others, providers who experience the flu or flu-like symptoms themselves should stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours, without the assistance of fever-reducing medication. Some consumers may request that providers wear protective gear if the provider shows symptoms of the flu. Providers should honor these requests when feasible.

SHIFT FULFILLMENT

Providers are expected to fulfill shift/visit obligations unless there are extenuating circumstances that would make doing so detrimental. Providers must assist the consumer in activating the established back-up support plan when the provider is unable to fulfill a scheduled shift(s). Providers must notify the case manager if shifts are to be fulfilled by another person. Because the first line of back-up may not be able to step in due to illness, etc., providers should assist consumers with identifying additional people to serve as back-up support during this flu season. Proper planning prevents panic!

Working together, providers and consumers can help assure that needs are met and everyone stays healthy!!



BeWell!!