April 30, 2020 - Ministry letter

VMRC Update

“The COVID-19 pandemic is the single greatest challenge in my medical career.” - Jonathan Shenk, M.D.

As Covid-19 moves toward May, these words from Dr. Shenk, who has seen the extreme effects of this pandemic at Accordius Health Center in Harrisonburg.

He shared these important notes with the Virginia Department of Health and other healthcare providers recently:

* COVID-19 spreads like wildfire. One slip of following proper prevention protocol can allow spread to residents and staff from one or two cases to 10, to 20, or more in just a few days. In addition, many staff may get infected and could be out of work for a week or two or more.
* Prevention - Flawless and buddy-monitored PPE use is essential. All staff from maintenance to Executive Directors should be empowered to remind each other if there appears to be a break in safe use of PPE or potential exposures. Gently remind your colleagues to exercise proper protocol. You are helping each other stay healthy and protect our community!

VMRC’s Colette Pennington was included in a story that appeared in today’s Daily News-Record about our SHIELD - (Supportive Living Heroes Investing Energy, Love (and) Dedication - program. Colette is an LPN in Woodland Park. Thanks, Colette, for representing VMRC so well! SHIELD pay provides three-tiers based on the jobs of the 300+ employees who work directly in resident and patient care or who support those who do. It will be in effect April 5 - May 30.

Continue to practice preventative measures: physical distancing and frequent hand washing.

Here is the link to the DNR article referencing Colette:

<https://www.dnronline.com/news/coronavirus/health-care-facilities-differ-on-hazard-pay/article_53d51ba0-889b-54dd-88ac-585f50ffcbf1.html>