



March 18, 2020

At St. Joseph Community Services (SJCS), our primary concern is the health and well-being of those we serve. On a weekly basis, we provide 8,000 meals for older, homebound and disabled adults across 31 towns in Hillsborough County. As such, we would like to share the following information regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

Considering the serious potential of the virus, and in close consultation with our leadership team, board of directors and local and state agencies, we are closely monitoring the issue in our state and are putting prevention and response steps in place. In doing so, we will be following guidance and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to protect the health of vulnerable seniors as well as our staff and volunteers.

As you have no doubt seen or heard in the news, this situation is rapidly evolving, and we are doing our utmost to stay abreast of current developments. We will also do all that we can to keep our clients, their families and other key partners informed.

Here are the steps we've initiated at present:

- As of yesterday (March 17, 2020), operation of the SJCS Community Dining Program was temporarily suspended. Our state and federal governments are recommending that public gatherings be limited due to the rapid spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers older adults (60+) and those with underlying health conditions, to be at a greater risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.
- We are working with each dining location to provide meals which can be safely picked up and brought home to consume. Please check with your local site for details.
- This decision does not, at this time, impact the Meals on Wheels Program, which will continue unless it is determined that meal delivery is no longer possible. In this case, an alternate plan will be implemented.

PLEASE click download to read the rest of our statement

- We are contacting all of our clients regarding the issue of COVID-19 and sharing our plans for how SJCS will proceed in the coming days and weeks.
- We are actively meeting with all staff and volunteers to discuss how to self-monitor for illness and to clarify preventative measures.

In addition to regular updates provided to our clients, we will be communicating regularly via our social media news pages. These are:

Facebook: @mealsonwheelsnh

Twitter: @MoWSJCS

Website: www.mealsonwheelsnh.org

How you can help:

For 43 years, St Joseph Community Services/Meals on Wheels has worked to serve vulnerable seniors across our state, enabling them to age in place in their homes as long as possible. Our cause has been fueled by a kind donor community and now, perhaps more than ever, your donations will make a critical difference. To learn more or support our work, please click on the following link:

<https://www.mealsonwheelsnh.org/donate-1>