



March 15, 2020

Dear The Farmer's House Family and Friends:

Our first priority during the COVID-19 pandemic is to do our best to keep the individuals we serve and our staff healthy. Presently we have **no known cases of COVID-19 within our organization**. In an effort to diligently deter further spread of this virus, The Farmer's House (TFH) Board of Directors has made the following difficult decisions regarding our programs:

ROOTs Community Integration:

Beginning Monday, March 16 ROOTs Community Integration (North and South) programs will be closed for a minimum of two weeks (until March 30th) and potentially longer in keeping with the [CDC considerations for school closures](#). For families who do not have another option for daily supports, we are awaiting information from the Department of Mental Health-Division of Developmental Disabilities for service options. Our Senior Director, Kelly Cogan, will email families this week to identify if there are support needs while we are closed. We are not able to guarantee staff availability, so please start working on alternative plans.

Employment Services:

At this time, we will continue limited Supported Employment services. Pre-Voc, Job Development, and Career Planning services will be discontinued effective Monday, March 16 for a minimum of 2 weeks. Our Employment Services staff has been directed not to provide Supported Employment in senior communities and food service. Individuals served and families will receive an email verifying supports.

Retail Markets & Early Work Experience:

Effective March 16th all of our retail Market locations including, the Westwood mARTket and Downtown Weston Market, will be closed through March 30th and possibly longer in conjunction with the participating school district's directives.

Social Enrichment Programs:

All Social Enrichment activities have been suspended until further notice. This includes the Farmer Talent Show Scheduled for April 3rd.

We will continue to monitor this situation and communicate changes to the above plan as deemed necessary. More information can be found at:

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/>.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call Suzanne Zimmerman, our board liaison, directly at 816-853-0164 or email her at Suzanne@thefarmershouse.org

Thank you for your support and understanding during this unprecedented time.

Respectfully, The Farmer's House Board of Directors

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