

Details include:

- Immediate Naming of VNHS Task Force COVID-19
- Daily COVID-19 Task-Force Briefing Calls.
- Implemented daily tracking and reporting structure of COVID health stats and PPE usage: updates/monitoring for every patient & employee health & supply needs.
- Clinical and HR Interim Guidance for Patient Care and Employee Safety and Triage:
 - Including early securing and implementing testing procedures with our physician partners to reduce time took to get patients and employee's MD order for testing
- Education on Proper PPE Training and Usage to entire team
- Immediately implemented Telework Policy early
- Implemented TeleHealth Visits in HomeHealth and Hospice as soon as able.
- Implemented Virtual Support Group series for Families, Caregivers, Parents to cope with the stresses brought on by COVID-19
- Partner, Donor and communication.
- Constant Staying Abreast of changes and information, Daily: Consistent meetings and monitoring and learning from communications from MANY sources, including industry associations, Federal, State and local governments, to ensure VNHS's patient care and employee's needs remains top priority in this changing, evolving, quickly-moving, decision-making processes.
 - This includes areas of company needing assistance: HR, financial, PPE, Industry regulations: CDC, CMS, DOL, DPH, clinician industry needs PT, OT, SLP
 - Thank you LeadingAge Georgia for support and the 3:30p daily calls!
- Communicated carefully and credibly to our community as a Resource: Using social media sites and website
 - For credible, up-to-date information on our social media outlets
 - Support our patients, families, and partner communication and website.
- Transparent communication with all employees, patients, partners, families and volunteers.
- Daily Employee Temperature and Symptom Checks

We were able to mitigate our internal employee infections to a small amount.

We attribute this to our early implementation strategy and employee education/compliance rate.

Now we are moving into the final stages of implementing the next steps to prepare our work place for phase II and III of opening strategies, to learn to live “along side” COVID-19, as safely as possible, to include:

- Employee Safety Program Guide
- Clinical Safety Guide
- Patient Education Guide
- Continue researching and monitoring testing costs and procedures for patients and employees

The effects of the COVID-19 are having a record-breaking economic impact on each, and every one of us. As many of our facility and home health partners did also, we started early, implementing practices so we could be an active support to mitigate the spread, securing PPE, securing financing, immediate monitoring of staff and patient wellness checks, staffing levels and needs, clinician support/stress when facing something we have never faced before. As CEO, my focus was immediate, patient and employee-centered decision making and action, communication and transparency of how we are progressing to our employees, patients/families, partners – medical and senior living, volunteers and donors.

LeadingAge Georgia has been a beacon in the storm for us here at VNHS – the daily 3:30p calls were a lifeline, as we navigated, and still sort through, the ever changing landscape.

Picture of our Private Duty Division Katie Jones, Curbside Testing Program

