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Date: March 19, 2020
To: All members of the UVS families
From: Bill Ashe, Executive Director
Re: Emergency steps

Last Friday I sent out a notice that announced the steps and precautions that UVS was putting in place to minimize the risk to everyone from this spreading COVID-19. The essence of this notice was to limit the exposure of individuals, especially those considered most vulnerable, to environments where individuals would be in contact with groups of people. Since this notice was written things have changed considerably. All across Vermont and nationally, places where people gather are being closed. This includes schools, day cares, adult day programs, churches, restaurants, and just about any group event that one can imagine. In response to this evolving crisis we must take even more steps to minimize to the best of our ability the opportunity for this virus to spread.

For this reason, Friday March 20 will be the last day where UVS will provide community-based services and supports. All of our energies will be put into supporting and securing to the best of our ability the places where people live. People are being asked across all walks of life to stay home. This is considered the best way to limit the spread of this virus. UVS case managers will be instructed to stay in close contact with everyone we support, and we will provide assistance to the best of our ability.

This is a very challenging situation and we will get through this by staying together. Everyone is making an immense contribution in the face of this emergency. I cannot thank everyone enough for your commitment and passion for protecting the vulnerable people we serve. I want to make particular mention of our home providers and other direct support staff who are supporting individuals who live in their own places.

My thanks and appreciation to everyone as we work through this together. As I have more information, I will send out additional notices. In the meantime, continue following the guidelines that have been sent out to maximize safety for everyone.