



## Letter from the Medical Director

In the past few weeks, the COVID-19 concern has grown from a minor worry to a worldwide pandemic. At The Next Door, we have been closely monitoring the situation and have put precautionary measures in place. We want to assure you that the health and safety of our clients and our staff remain our top priority. The Management Team at The Next Door has created an Emergency Response Plan to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus within the TND community. We are meeting daily to re-evaluate and update our

response plans according to the rapidly changing circumstances and guidelines.

The main points of this plan include:

- Cancellation of Aftercare and Family Education Group until further notice
- Daily monitoring of outpatient clients and staff upon entrance to the facility
- Implementation of preadmissions phone screening and screening for symptoms upon arrival
- Cancellation of all off-site activities for clients (YMCA, AA, NA, etc.) until further notice
- Utilization of telemedicine services by our providers as needed to ensure continuity of care

We have enhanced our janitorial services which has allowed deep cleaning of our units and even more frequent sanitization of common areas. All staff have been given ample cleaning supplies and instructions on how to effectively keep their workspace sanitized. Staff are also screened for symptoms on arrival for work, and have been asked to stay home from work should they develop any concerning symptoms.

For many women, the availability of treatment for their addiction continues to be life-saving. For this reason we are continuing to accept clients into all levels of care provided their virus screening is negative. Our medical team and our clinical staff remain committed to serving women in need throughout this crisis.

*- Michael Ferri, M.D.  
Medical Director at The Next Door*