

6 ways AZURE has maintained ZERO COVID-19 Cases

Azure Healthcare Services, LLC has ZERO cases of COVID-19 in all six of our supported living residences in Washington, DC

1. 100% Lock Down

As the COVID-19 cases began to skyrocket within the provider community, the Azure management team immediately instituted a two-week mandatory lock down of all locations.

2. Novel Staff Protocols

Azure staff was required, even before the lockdown, to wear face masks and gloves. Central ingress and egress points were established at homes with this option, enabling doffing/donning to be performed. No-touch temperature checks for all staff and visitors, in addition to hand washing and social distancing, were implemented within the homes. Management executed training to staff via videoconference on the protocols, and confirmation of the complete understanding of the precautions was achieved as described by the Healthcare Services Department.

3. Followed CDC, JHU, WHO, DDS, and DOH Guidelines

Azure implemented the guidelines provided by DC DOH on social distancing, hand washing, and all other techniques to create a risk averse environment.

4. The Application of Our Expertise

Azure HCS (Healthcare Services) scheduled daily management team meetings via videoconference to provide information to the clinical and management teams, and to assess the effectiveness of the new protocols implemented within the organization. With the use of the Mayor's press conferences, orders, and COVID-19 morbidity data, we have been able to stay ahead of the spread.

5. Used Federal & DC Government Business Protection Programs

As a result of the thoughtful and decisive leadership of Mayor Bowser and the City Council, Azure HCS was able to utilize the DC Government Business Protection Programs, and the SBA Disaster Relief Programs for much needed funds. These funds were critical to our continued operations.

6. Testing Innovation - Utilized Existing Community Stakeholders/ Strategic Partnerships

Azure HCS partnered with our friends at Unity Health - Anacostia, and set up rapid testing for the "waves" of staff before they are deployed into the homes. This effort is to mitigate COVID-positive staff infecting the people we support and co-workers. Azure HCS knows that testing is a critical step particularly before going into lockdown. Unity Health - Anacostia worked closely with our CEO and HR Director to create a streamlined process for Azure HCS' staff to be tested together as a group. This resulted in another well organized and coordinated community partnership innovation.

For the duration of this public health emergency, Azure HCS will continue to take all necessary precautions to protect the health, welfare, safety, choice, and security of some of the District's most vulnerable residents. We will follow Mayor Bowser, the DOH, and the DDS recommendations through all phases of the coronavirus plan.

