



For Immediate Release

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Notice: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update to Agency Precautions and Prevention Efforts

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio (March 13) - Since first becoming aware of the fast-spreading Coronavirus and the elevated risks to older adults worldwide, USS has taken every possible precaution to protect the health and well-being of our clients, members, staff, and stakeholders. As the situation continues to evolve by the day, and at times hour by hour, USS administration and staff are working hard to continue all that we do to serve older adults in Clark County. While key services and functions will continue, some changes to our operations will take place beginning at the end of business Friday, March 13, 2020. At this time, USS will begin implementation of our Infectious Disease Protocol.

Effective immediately, USS is taking the following actions:

Following guidance from the Area Agency on Aging, in consultation with the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, and in accordance with our Infectious Disease Contingency Plan, USS will immediately suspend all recreation, education and social events and all centers and satellite locations will be closed to members until Monday, April 6, 2020. Additionally, all activities and travel outside of USS centers are cancelled during this time period.

Key services provided by USS will continue uninterrupted unless otherwise instructed.

Meal Delivery, Transportation for medical treatment and grocery trips, as well as *In-Home Services* provided by homemakers and personal care aids remain ongoing as staff continue following previously activated sanitation and contagion protocols. Congregate meal locations will convert to Meals on Wheels delivery, pre-packaged pick-up, or 5 day boxes based on dining room location management and the preference of individual participants.

Limited access to the USS Main Street location is permitted for Clark Countians in need of essential services which will remain in place and available as we fulfill our commitment to provide emergency assistance, tax preparation, Medicare counseling and other important resources that can be made available through one-on-one meetings. Prevention staff will stay in touch with clients to schedule one-on-one visits or phone calls based on client preferences.

The USS mission will not waiver

This message comes amidst unprecedented times. USS remains vigilant and proactive. We are in constant contact with the local Health Department, Emergency Management Association, and our Area Agency on Aging and will provide updates as circumstances continue to evolve.

USS staff continues working to improve the lives of older adults in Clark County and to keep you informed as expert recommendations and updates to our plan become available. Please check our Facebook page and/or website frequently for additional communications and announcements.

Clients and members are advised to call the USS downtown center at 937-323-4948 with *any* questions about available services and/or cancellations.