



UCSF Alliance Health Project

Dear Friends and Supporters of Alliance Health Project,

As the global COVID-19 outbreak runs its course, this is a time for all of us to take particular care as we go about our lives.

Here at AHP, the health and safety of our LGBTQ+ and HIV-affected clients and staff are of the utmost importance to us and we are taking our cues from the CDC, WHO, and our parent organization, the UCSF School of Medicine as we make decisions about how to operate.

First, as many of us are immune compromised, we have made the difficult decision to suspend all of our support groups and community meetings at our clinic. We have also directed our staff to work-at-home whenever possible. All board and staff related committee work is also being done virtually with no in-person meetings. With great reluctance, we have also cancelled our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party scheduled for April 21, 2020.

Ever mindful of our need for human connection, we are investigating the possibility of shifting support groups to online platforms and we'll let you know when that becomes possible. We are engaging in counseling via the telephone whenever possible and are screening critical clients who come into the clinic to ensure they are well or encouraging them to return home if they are ill. We are wiping down surfaces, chairs, door handles and counters regularly and have hand sanitizer available for our staff and clients to use.

As mental health and emotional support providers we are especially sensitive to the psychological effects of social distancing. We urge you to use apps such as Zoom, Slack, Jabber, and others to connect with your friends, family, colleagues and loved ones. Working-at-home seems like fun until you realize the benefits of everyday small talk with co-workers and good ergonomics.

It is not lost on us that we began our clinic in 1984 in response to the AIDS epidemic. The experience of those days reminds us of the response of fearless and caring health care workers who are fighting today to care for those affected by the current viral threat. We are also reminded that fear can turn into hate but can also be combated by compassion, humility, kindness, love and service. We believe that by being cautious we are engaging in an expression of solidarity with all people and respect for science and public health.

The Alliance Health Project serves as a safety net clinic in the City and a safe, welcoming place for our community. If you need to talk, call us: we have experience dealing with anxiety, overwhelm, depression and grief. We're here for you and we thank you for your understanding and ongoing support.

Wishing you health and wellness, today and every day,
Jim Dilley and Lori Thoemmes, on behalf of our outstanding team

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