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Tax Identification Number
92-0113788

March 16, 2020

Dear friends,

Due to the situation surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19), I want to take a moment and connect with you to share what the Four A's is doing to address this pandemic. The well-being and safety of the Four A's clients and staff is our top priority.

Over the last few weeks, Four A's has been following the progression of COVID-19 and following recommendations from public health officials at the local, state and federal level. Four A's is working diligently to uphold our mission to support and empower some of Alaska's most vulnerable persons while maintaining the safest possible environment for our clients, our staff and our communities.

For now, Four A's will maintain regular hours but is closed for public visitation. Telephonic Case Management services will remain available to individuals seeking services and Four A's Syringe Access Program will remain operation via the Four A's Mobile Health Unit. At this time, the Four A's will not be offering HIV or Hepatitis C testing services.

Key staff will be onsite, assisting with programs and services to respond to our clients. Our mission to reduce the impact and incidence of HIV/AIDS and other serious medical and social conditions has never been more important. Even as the world around us may seem uncertain, we are steadfast in our support and committed to doing all we can to support our clients, peers, volunteers, and staff.

Since our founding days, Four A's has offered a safe, non-judgmental space to all who seek our support. We urge our fellow Alaskans to remember the strengths of our community, and to reject racism and xenophobia in all forms, especially as it emerges in response to this virus. Stigma has no place in our HIV community, and no place in our larger Alaskan community. I urge you to please take a few moments to learn the facts from valued sources. For more information, visit the World Health Organization at who.int or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov.

This is a dynamic and complex situation. We will continue to communicate with the community, follow guidance and recommendations as issued by the Anchorage and Juneau municipalities and State of Alaska, and continue to serve our mission.

With love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robin Lutz'.

Robin Lutz, MPH
Executive Director

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (Four A's) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

