



March 18, 2020

Dear Clubhouse Friends:

Key Clubhouse of South Florida has been following Clubhouse International, Clubhouse Europe, Fountain House in New York and other Clubhouses around the world to monitor the status of the COVID-19 outbreak so we can share vital information with our community and will continue to do so over the coming weeks and months.

We understand that this epidemic strikes directly at the heart of our model that is built on social connection, but we must make difficult decisions quickly. At this time, we are not offering Clubhouse services on site as we do not want to put our tightly knit and more vulnerable Clubhouse communities at risk.

Social distancing is critical for curbing the pandemic. Most importantly, that means Clubhouses around the world must prepare action plans for decreasing on-site programming, and possibly closing their physical locations to reduce the risk

What are we doing at Key Clubhouse? Clubhouses around the world are being asked to work with members and staff to devise action plans and communications to mitigate the risks that possible disruption of services can lead to.

We are taking this very pandemic very seriously and want to make sure our members and staff stay safe and healthy. Those people at higher risk are members who are over 60 and members with chronic physical illnesses such as respiratory disease, diabetes, heart disease, cancer and autoimmune diseases. Active smokers are also at higher risk of developing more severe illness and complications.

For everyone, the coronavirus epidemic and related coverage can increase anxiety and stress, and so focusing on wellbeing is important, including physical activity, healthy eating, and sleep.

We are currently reaching out by phone, videoconferencing, Facebook and home visits on a regular basis to all of our members and helping them with access to basic needs, such as food, medications and hygiene supplies.

Key Clubhouse is here to help and are a resource to the Clubhouse community. We will plan to share messages weekly. We are also available by phone if anyone wants to reach out with any direct questions or support you might need 1-305-693-3508.

We stand ready to help as much as possible.

Debra Webb
Executive Director