



*This story was shared with us by our Yaphank House Manager, Rachel Burlew.*

In early April, a Direct Support Professional working at AHRC's Yaphank home tested positive for COVID-19. While this news was unsettling, all of the staff at the home had been following the guidelines and protocols that were issued by AHRC (social distancing, disinfecting, wearing masks, etc.), and they were hopeful that it was enough to prevent spread.

The DSPs continued to disinfect everything that was touched, they found a way to convince even the most headstrong of the individuals we support that wearing masks was 'cool', despite the discomfort. There was rarely a resident without a mask on, and never a staff member without one. Social distancing was taken up a notch and residents were given more 'one on one' time, and less time in shared spaces.

This isn't what the staff signed up for, but day in and day out, they added '*infection disease control agent*' to their already long list of responsibilities and made it work, all with a smile on their faces (at least, we think they were smiling since they had masks covering their faces).

Because they followed the guidelines, because they cleaned until their gloves had holes in them, and then cleaned some more; because they never stopped fighting the 'invisible enemy'... no other staff member or resident has had any symptoms, and the staff member who tested positive is feeling better and is back at work.

We couldn't be prouder of the team here at Yaphank. Not only did they 'stop the spread'... but they very well may have saved lives.

***Heroes definitely DO work here at AHRC Suffolk.***

Thank you so much Mike, Doug, Phil, Janice, Laura, Jackie and Shayna!!!