

November 27, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Grey Bruce Health Unit

FROM: Linda Chihab
Director, West Region

SUBJECT: MCCSS COVID-19 Wave 2 Congregate Care
Notice of Enhanced Precautions

On October 2, 2020, the ministry distributed a memo to MCCSS transfer payment recipients advising that your organization may be directed to implement measures in your MCCSS-funded congregate living settings in response to escalating or de-escalating levels of community risk related to COVID-19.

We are advising that your area of Grey Bruce has exhibited a change in the level of community risk related to COVID-19.

What this means for your organization:

Within 48 hours, all MCCSS-funded congregate living settings operated by your agency in the area of Grey Bruce Health Unit shall implement the following enhanced precautions:

Infection Prevention Activities

- Ensure training has been completed on enhanced PPE protocols during outbreaks.
- Resident attendance of indoor community services and supports/day-programming only where limited to maximum group size of 5 people (Virtual delivery is STRONGLY encouraged as an alternative)

For information on active screening and IPAC best practices, please visit the Public Health Ontario [website](#) which contains many IPAC tools and resources for various settings.

.../2

London
217 York Street, Suite 203,
London ON, N6A 5R1, P.O. Box 5217
Tel: 519-438-5111 | Fax: 519-672-9510
Toll Free: 1-800-265-4197 | TTY: 519-663-5276

217, rue York, bureau 203,
London ON, N6A 5R1, C.P. 5217
Tél: 519 438-5111 | Téléc.: 519 672-9510
Sans frais: 1 800 265-4197 | ATS: 519 663-5276

Hamilton
119 King Street West, 7th Floor
Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y7
Tel: 905 521-7318 | Fax: 905 546-8277
TTY: 905-546-8276

119, rue King ouest, 7^e étage
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y7
Tél: 905 521-7318 | Téléc.: 905 546-8277
ATS: 905-546-8276

Windsor
270 Erie Street East
Windsor, ON, N9A 7E3, P.O. Box 1810, Station A
Tel: 519-254-5355 | Fax: 519-255-1152
Toll Free: 1-800-419-4919 | TTY: 519-254-4850

270, rue Erie Est
Windsor ON N9A 7E3, C.P. 1810, Succ A
Tél: 519 254-5355 | Téléc.: 519 255-1152
Sans frais : 1 800 419-4919 | ATS: 519 254-4850

Visitors and Visiting

- Short-stay absences must be limited to activities that enable health and important life activities (e.g., school, work, doctors' appointments etc.), As a general rule, a resident is expected to practice physical distancing, hand hygiene and to wear a face covering (with support where necessary) when on a short stay absence. Residents must also adhere to any current local public health unit or municipal requirements related to local conditions.
 - Note: specific settings (e.g. schools and offices of regulated medical professionals) may have specific requirements and protocols regarding a short stay absence in those settings;
- Essential visits and essential overnight absences are permitted. “Essential visitors” are distinct from other visitor types in *The Visitor’s Guidelines 2.0: Re-Opening of Congregate Living Settings* so agencies can facilitate, on an individual resident basis, relationships that are necessary to maintain their health, wellness and safety in the context of overarching visitor restrictions. Agencies are strongly encouraged to consider the importance of the principles of emotional well-being and flexibility for their residents in addition to infection risks.
- Non-essential and designated indoor visits are prohibited;
- Limited, supervised, non-essential outdoor visits with physical distancing are permitted. Visits must be scheduled in advance;
- Note for Youth Justice: All non-essential in person visits (indoor and outdoor) are restricted for youth justice at this time, and the use of technology to promote virtual visits is encouraged. Reintegration leaves for youth in youth justice facilities remain prohibited at this time.

Please continue to consult with The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services’ [Visitor’s Guidelines 2.0: Re-Opening of Congregate Living Settings](#) which provides additional information on outings and visits.

A handout outlining visitor permissions and restrictions based on community risk has been attached for your use in communicating these expectations to families and friends of residents.

.../3

London
217 York Street, Suite 203,
London ON, N6A 5R1, P.O. Box 5217
Tel: 519-438-5111 | Fax: 519-672-9510
Toll Free: 1-800-265-4197 | TTY: 519-663-5276

217, rue York, bureau 203,
London ON, N6A 5R1, C.P. 5217
Tél: 519 438-5111 | Téléc.: 519 672-9510
Sans frais: 1 800 265-4197 | ATS: 519 663-5276

Hamilton
119 King Street West, 7th Floor
Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y7
Tel: 905 521-7318
Fax: 905 546-8277

119, rue King ouest, 7^e étage
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y7
Tél: 905 521-7318
Téléc: 905 546-8277

Windsor
270 Erie Street East
Windsor, ON, N9A 7E3, P.O. Box 1810, Station A
Tel: 519-254-5355 | Fax: 519-255-1152
Toll Free: 1-800-419-4919 | TTY: 519-254-4850

270, rue Erie Est
Windsor ON N9A 7E3, C.P. 1810, Succ A
Tél: 519 254-5355 | Téléc.: 519 255-1152
Sans frais : 1 800 419-4919 | ATS: 519 254-4850

Where in-person day programming and visitation/outings are restricted agencies are encouraged to facilitate virtual access to services and family/friend remote communication.

These measures shall remain in place until you are notified by the ministry that the community's level of COVID-related risk has changed.

Additional Resources and Reminders

The following additional resources are available to support you with ensuring we continue to be vigilant in protecting our most vulnerable in congregate care settings:

- The Ministry of Health has additional setting- and topic-specific guidance [available](#).
- The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has many important [resources](#) for employers and workers to help stop spread within workplaces.
- Your area also encouraged to speak to your local Public Health Units about how you can navigate the challenges of COVID-19 in your unique settings.

We strongly encourage all staff, volunteers or visitors who are experiencing ANY [COVID-19 symptoms](#), even if mild symptoms, to stay home, avoid going to work or visiting a congregate setting and interacting with others for a minimum of 24 hours. COVID-19 testing should be pursued in accordance with current [provincial guidelines](#). Active screening practices at congregate sites should be similarly rigorous. We also encourage you, your staff, your clients and visitors to download the COVID-19 alert mobile app to support strong contact tracing and help protect yourself and your community.

If you have questions about any of the measures outlined above, please contact your ministry program supervisor.

Sincerely,



Linda Chihab
Regional Director

London
217 York Street, Suite 203,
London ON, N6A 5R1, P.O. Box 5217
Tel: 519-438-5111 | Fax: 519-672-9510
Toll Free: 1-800-265-4197 | TTY: 519-663-5276

217, rue York, bureau 203,
London ON, N6A 5R1, C.P. 5217
Tél: 519 438-5111 | Téléc.: 519 672-9510
Sans frais: 1 800 265-4197 | ATS: 519 663-5276

Hamilton
119 King Street West, 7th Floor
Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y7
Tel: 905 521-7318
Fax: 905 546-8277

119, rue King ouest, 7^e étage
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y7
Tél: 905 521-7318
Télééc: 905 546-8277

Windsor
270 Erie Street East
Windsor, ON, N9A 7E3, P.O. Box 1810, Station A
Tel: 519-254-5355 | Fax: 519-255-1152
Toll Free: 1-800-419-4919 | TTY: 519-254-4850

270, rue Erie Est
Windsor ON N9A 7E3, C.P. 1810, Succ A
Tél: 519 254-5355 | Téléc.: 519 255-1152
Sans frais : 1 800 419-4919 | ATS: 519 254-4850