

Covid-19 Update: Adult Services

Adult Services would like to provide the Membership, Board Members, Staff, Volunteers, Community and People Supported with an update on how Adult Services has been dealing with the Pandemic over the last several months, as follows:

Many COVID-19 preventative measures have been in place, such as:

- Siloing of Staff
- Suspending non-essential services
- Staff only working for one high risk employer (in addition to Order in Council)
- Providing Staff and people supported with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Active screening assessments of Staff and people supported
- Regular cleaning, disinfecting of congregate living homes, with extra attention to common areas
- Mandatory face masks for Staff, with encouragement/promotion of face masks for people supported
- Education and promotion of hand hygiene, physical distancing, respiratory etiquette
- Abidance of Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, as well as Ministry of Health requirements

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), in consultation with Public Health, has provided directives to all agencies who support people in congregate living. Some of the directives have been:

- What types of masks Staff are required to wear
- When people supported could have family/friends visit and the protocols that are to occur
 - <https://files.ontario.ca/mccss-resuming-visits-in-congregate-living-settings-en-2020-06-11-v2.pdf>
 - http://www.children.gov.on.ca/docs/MCCSS_Visitor_Guidelines_Congregate_Living-EN.pdf
- Whether or not people supported can visit their family/friends
- Cleaning and disinfecting requirements

Education and training for Staff and people supported has been a key area during these challenging times. Examples of some of the education/training that has occurred and will continue on an ongoing basis are:

- Understanding what COVID-19 is and how it's transmitted
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment
- Cleaning and Disinfecting/Sanitizing
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Protocols for suspected (and confirmed) cases of COVID-19 * CL-CH has had no reported positive cases of COVID-19 amongst its Staff or people supported
- Funding/subsidy options
- Mock outbreak drills
- COVID-19 Resource Binders at each work location
- Mandatory Health and Safety training for all Adult Services' Staff
- COVID-19 Resource Package for People Supported

The Goderich office (Accommodation Services-Residential and SIL, RCS, Employment Support) continues to be open, however, only by appointment. The "day program" (RCS), the Community Connector and the Snoezelen room remain suspended, with all other Adult Services' programs (Accommodation Services, Employment Support) operating.

Resource links:

*<https://www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information>

*<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>

*<https://www.hpph.ca/en/health-matters/covid-19-in-huron-and-perth.aspx>

*<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

*<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

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