

October 15, 2020

Memorandum To: MCCSS-funded Transfer Payment Recipients (TPRs) that provide Services and Supports in Congregate Living Settings

From: Kristina Lombardi
Acting Director, Central Region

Subject: **MCCSS COVID-19 Wave 2 Congregate Care Notice of Additional 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 Region of Waterloo Public Health 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 Region of Waterloo Public Health shall implement following additional precautions:

Infection Prevention Activities

- Follow IPAC best practices and provide active screening to all residents, staff and visitors;
- Reinforce IPAC best practices with residents;
- Arrange additional IPAC assessments and education/training, based on need;
- Resident attendance of indoor day-programming only where limited to a maximum group size of 10 people, including staff (virtual delivery is 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.

Visitors and Visiting

- Scheduled, supervised non-essential outdoor and indoor visits with physical distancing are permitted. Physical contact is not permitted.
- Unscheduled non-essential and designated visitation are prohibited. All visits must be planned with the congregate living site.
- Essential visits (supporting health and caregiving) and essential overnight absence are permitted and return protocols must follow Public Health Unit guidance.
- Short stay absences are fully permitted.
- 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, especially when additional precautions have been implemented.
- 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 to those settings.
- 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.

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 is 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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristina Lombardi for Karen Singh'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Kristina' being the most prominent part.

Kristina Lombardi for Karen Singh
A/Director, Central Region

Appendix: Summary of Permitted Visitor & Recreational Activities by Wave 2 Community Risk Continuum	Normal Precautions	Additional Precautions Waterloo Region 15-Oct-2020	Enhanced Precautions	Outbreak/ Comprehensive Precautions
Visits				
Visits by: Essential Visitors	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Visits by: Designated Visitors	Permitted	Designated visitor privileges suspended . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inquire about Essential or non-essential visitor privileges as appropriate for alternate options. 	Designated visitor privileges suspended. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inquire about Essential or non-essential visitor privileges as appropriate for alternate options. 	Designated visitor privileges suspended. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inquire about Essential or non-essential visitor privileges as appropriate for alternate options.

	Normal Precautions	Additional Precautions Waterloo Region 15-Oct-2020	Enhanced Precautions	Outbreak/ Comprehensive Precautions
Visits by: Non-essential Visitors	Permitted, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor at group home site Outdoor at group home site Unsupervised offsite visit 	Permitted with limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervised only Physically distanced only Indoor at group home site Outdoor at group home site 	Permitted, with limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervised only Physically distanced only Outdoor visits at group homes Indoor visits suspended 	Non-essential visitor privileges suspended.
Short-term outings or absences *				
Health and well-being activities outside of residence (e.g. doctor's appointments, work, school etc.).	Permitted.	Permitted.	Permitted.	Permitted, when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorized by screening for activity and/or public health advice; or essential for medical purposes only and virtual care is not possible.
Staff Accompanied Recreational activities outside of residence	Permitted.	Permitted, with limitations.	Suspended.	Suspended.

* Same-day return family home visits

Permitted

Permitted, with limitations

Suspended.

Suspended.

	Normal Precautions	Additional Precautions Waterloo Region 15-Oct-2020	Enhanced Precautions	Outbreak/ Comprehensive Precautions
Day supports (Day programs)	Permitted. Max group size (including staff) is 10 people.	Permitted. Max group size (including staff) is 10 people.	Permitted, when: Max group size (including staff) is 5 people.	Suspended.
Essential overnight absences				
Essential overnight absences	Permitted. 14 day enhanced monitoring is required upon return.	Permitted. 14 day isolation is required upon return.	Permitted, but not recommended. 14 day isolation is required upon return.	Suspended.