

November 13, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Huron-Perth Public Health

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 Huron-Perth 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 Huron-Perth Public Health 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.

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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.

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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

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Appendix: Summary of Permitted Visitor & Recreational Activities by Wave 2 Community Risk Continuum

	Normal Precautions	Additional Precautions	Enhanced Precautions	Outbreak/ Comprehensive Precautions
Visits				
<p>Essential</p> <p>An essential visitor is generally a person who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performs essential services to support the ongoing operation of a service agency (including a contractor); and/or 2. Considered necessary to maintain the health, wellness and safety, or any applicable legal rights, of a congregate living resident. <p>An essential visitor may include but is not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A parent/guardian • Social service workers (e.g./ child welfare workers, day program operators etc.) • Health care providers (e.g./ doctor, nurse, personal support workers, etc.) 	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
<p>Designated</p> <p>A resident and/or substitute decision maker may designate up to 2 people at a time as “unrestricted visitors”.</p> <p>Designated Visitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not required to schedule an appointment to visit a congregate living setting within provided that their visit is within the site’s permitted visitation hours. • May be required to wait outside of the congregate living setting if the site is at its maximum visitor capacity. 	Permitted	<p>Designated visitor privileges suspended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Essential or non-essential visitor privileges as appropriate for alternate options. 	<p>Designated visitor privileges suspended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Essential or non-essential visitor privileges as appropriate for alternate options. 	<p>Designated visitor privileges suspended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Essential or non-essential visitor privileges as appropriate for alternate options.

	Normal Precautions	Additional Precautions	Enhanced Precautions	Outbreak/ Comprehensive Precautions
While appointments are not required it is advised that to schedule an appointment to avoid wait times.				
<p>Non-essential</p> <p>A non- essential visitor is generally a person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides non-essential services, who may or may not be hired by the site or the resident and/or their substitute decision maker; and/or • For social reasons (e.g. family members or friends). <p>Non-essential visits must be scheduled in advance.</p>	<p>Permitted, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsupervised • Indoor • Outdoor 	<p>Permitted with limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised only • Physically distanced only • Indoor • Outdoor 	<p>Permitted, with limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised only • Physically distanced only • Outdoor visits only • Indoor visits suspended 	<p>Non-essential visitor privileges suspended.</p>
Short-term outings or absences				
Health and well-being activities outside of residence (e.g. doctor’s appointments, work, school etc.).	Permitted.	Permitted.	Permitted.	<p>Permitted, when:</p> <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.
Recreational activities outside of residence	Permitted.	Permitted.	Suspended.	Suspended.

	Normal Precautions	Additional Precautions	Enhanced Precautions	Outbreak/ Comprehensive Precautions
Day supports	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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An essential overnight absence (e.g. to a family home) considered necessary to maintain the health, wellness and safety, or any applicable legal rights, of a resident. 	Permitted.	Permitted.	Permitted.	Suspended.

**Note for Youth Justice Service Providers - The Ministry's Youth Justice Division continues to work with key stakeholders on operational guidance with respect to the safety, security and confidentiality of the youth we serve, their families, approved visitors and employees with a goal of resuming in-person visits and non-essential reintegration leaves. In the meantime, contact with family and approved visitors is to continue via telephone calls and virtual visits, where operationally feasible. Communication will be distributed to all TPRs providing open and secure youth justice services once in-person visits and reintegration leaves for non-essential purposes can resume.