



Memorandum

To: All LCDS Employees
Date: January 28, 2022
From: EMT
Subject: Family & Stakeholder COVID-19 Update

Good afternoon everyone.

Thank you for your continued support and resilience. As guidance continues to change due to the effects of Omicron, we will continue to work hard to keep you updated. Thank you for all that you continue to do as we work through this together.

MCCSS Interim Direction-Extended Measures

MCCSS is taking a cautious approach to easing the interim extended measures that came into effect January 13, 2022 for MCCSS funded and/or licensed congregate living settings.

The measures outlined in the January 2022 (v2) Interim Direction - Extended Measures (attached for your reference) will continue to be in effect **until February 21, 2022**. Further information about easing these measures will be provided in upcoming weeks by MCCSS.

Agency Enhanced Protocols

In light of the MCCSS announcement and the current agency situation with declared outbreaks and positive COVID-19 cases being reported, **the agency pause for supports and services has been extended to coincide with the 'MCCSS Interim Direction-Extended Measures' until February 21, 2022** and will be reviewed again at that time.

The pause applies to the following supports and services:

- Community Participation supports
- All in-person meetings
- Administration Office and location managers will work remotely for days (4) days per week where possible. We realize that there are positions that will need to work in the office/onsite more than the one day per week in order to keep the day-to-day operations of organization flowing.
- Surgical/procedural masks must be worn in all agency congregate and non-congregate settings.
- Essential in-person training (Fit Testing, CPI, and First Aid/CPR) will continue with reduced capacity limits, enhanced screening and PPE requirements in place. CPI refresher training will be paused until we can increase capacity limits. Non-essential training will also be paused.
- Contractor visits will only occur if deemed essential.



Declared COVID-19 Outbreak Update

The agency currently has two locations (Aniline St/Oil Springs and Hill St/Corunna) in declared outbreak situations. We continue our work with Lambton Public Health at these locations. We have had one outbreak declared over at Zone St in Wyoming. Thank you to the employees at these sites for the continued diligence as we work the outbreak situations.

Agency representatives (Health Safety Rep, Manager and H&S Coordinator) met with Ministry of Labour, Training & Skills Development this week to review the agency COVID-19 safety protocols. The review went well. We will look at refining our screening process as a result.

CARF

The agency is due in February to complete our three-year accreditation with CARF. After careful review, we have requested a six-month extension for the accreditation survey. The pandemic has left us in a place where there is just too much uncertainty for us to properly prepare for a true and reflective survey of the organization. While not ideal, we feel it is the right decision for our organization at this time.

Please reach out to EMT or your location manager with any questions. Thank you for your continued patience and support. Be safe and well.

MCCSS Virtual Wellness-Drop Box Link

The MCCSS West Region office has confirmed a number of time-limited, online supports/resources that will be available until March 31, 2022 to support eligible individuals, their families and caregivers during COVID-19 and the latest Omicron wave.

The **Virtual Wellness-Drop Box link** provided, includes a number of information posters for a variety of online support offerings, including a 24/7 counselling line that is directed to individuals, their families and caregivers on the adult DS wait list. **Please see and share this link as you see fit:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mabbx1ooqidxzq2/AACnSGHz89MwA9eLne58yzhga?dl=0>.

The contact and registration information is included in each of the information posters. Please connect directly with the agency delivering the support with any questions or comments.

Thank you. Be well and be safe.

Sincerely,

EMT
emt@lcds.on.ca