

# Memorandum

**To:** All LCDS Families & Stakeholders  
**Date:** February 17, 2022  
**From:** EMT  
**Subject:** Agency COVID-19 Updates

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Good afternoon everyone.

As we head into Family Day weekend we want to first want to let you know we are thinking of you. We do have a number of important MCCSS and Agency updates to share with you today.

## **MCCSS Interim Direction-Extended Measures**

### **Lifting Extended Measures**

As public health and health care indicators continue to show signs of improvement, and following consultation with the Ministry of Health (MOH), MCCSS is continuing to update their guidance for congregate living settings.

**Effective February 21, 2022**, the **extended measures** related to visitor and overnight absence restrictions currently in effect for MCCSS funded and/or licensed congregate living settings (CLSs) **will be lifted**.

- Non-essential (general) visits in CLSs will be permitted to resume, in alignment with provincial social gathering limits; and
- Non-essential overnight absences for residents will be permitted to resume, in alignment with provincial public health measures.

### **Updated Interim Direction**

MCCSS has also provided their updated '**February 2022 Interim Direction**' – we have attached it for your careful review. The changes have been flagged for you. The update provides information on:

- Use of PCR and Rapid Antigen Testing for People Supported
- Use of N95 Respirators
- Mandatory Positive Case Reporting

### **Provincial Order Extensions**

Under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020, the following orders have been **extended until March 16, 2022**:

- Ontario Regulation 177/20 – Congregate Care Settings (applies to congregate care settings in developmental services, intervenor services, violence against women, and anti-human trafficking sectors)
- Ontario Regulation 121/20 – Service Agencies Providing Services and Supports to Adults with Developmental Disabilities and Service Providers Providing Intervenor Services; and
- Ontario Regulation 145/20 – Work Deployment Measures for Service Agencies Providing Violence Against Women Residential Services and Crisis Line Services

### **Agency Enhanced Protocols**

In light of the MCCSS announcement, the current state of the province and the current state of the agency, EMT has revised the agency enhanced protocols. The agency continues to have staff away due to COVID-19 illness and isolation requirements.

**Protocols will be reviewed by EMT on March 10, 2022.** The updates in protocol apply to the following supports and services:

- Community Participation supports will remain on pause.
- In-person meetings of up to 5 people are permissible based on the capacity of the meeting space.
- Effective Monday, February 21, 2022, Administration Office employees and location managers will work remotely for three (3) days per week where possible. We realize that there are positions that will need to work in the office/onsite more than two days per week in order to keep the day-to-day operations of organization flowing.
- Surgical/procedural masks must continue to 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 continue to be paused.
- All non-essential contractor visits may resume as scheduled by the Property Manager and coordinated through the location manager.

### **MCCSS Virtual Wellness-Drop Box Link**

Reminder - 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 safe and well – hoping for better days very soon.

Sincerely,

EMT

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