

Memorandum

To: LCDS Families & Stakeholders
Date: March 25, 2022
From: EMT
Subject: Family & Stakeholder COVID-19 & Agency Update

Good afternoon everyone. We hope you are all safe and well. We do have several important MCCSS and Agency updates to share with you today.

MCCSS Updates

The agency received and update and March 2022 Interim Direction from MCCSS this week. We have provided the details below:

Masking Guidelines

- The provincial government announced changes to masking requirements for most public settings beginning March 21, 2022; however, MCCSS continues to require masking or face covering requirements for health care and congregate living settings.
- Maintaining masking requirements in these settings provides additional protection in places where people are often in close contact and/or required to be in-person and allows for sustained protection for vulnerable populations.
- This means that **there is no change to current masking requirements in MCCSS funded and licensed congregate living settings. Masks are required to be worn when employees are on shift and supporting people.**
- We will continue to promote and educate the people we support on the use of masks and face coverings to allow them to make informed decisions on their use.

Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT)

- Based on advice from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, effective March 25, 2022, service providers may, at their discretion, increase the frequency of asymptomatic rapid antigen screening for all staff, students and volunteers who enter the setting, regardless of vaccination status, from 2 to 3 times per week (7-day period). **LCDS will continue with 2 times per week (Monday & Thursday) asymptomatic rapid antigen screening week (7-day period) for our employees. This will be reviewed regularly by EMT.**
- RAT provide additional level of screening and protection for our employees and the people supported. RAT can identify employees that are potentially asymptomatic



before they enter the workplace. This greatly assists in limiting a potential exposure to your co-workers and people supported at your location.

Emergency Orders

- As you know, orders have been in place that have allowed for:
 - staffing flexibility,
 - deferral from some compliance requirements and;
 - rules for mobility of vaccinated and unvaccinated staff.

These orders were extended until March 28, 2022. Per the regular government decision making cycle, some/all of these orders could expire on that date. If any/all of the orders are extended, service providers should prepare for the orders to no longer be in force by the end of April 2022. This is because the power to approve further extensions will have ended before that date as we are heading into an election period.

Agency Updates

Agency Enhanced Protocols

Agency enhanced protocols will be reviewed by EMT on March 28, 2022. The review will apply to the following supports and services:

- Community Participation
- In-person meetings of up to 5 people
- The Administration Office employees and location working remotely
- The use of surgical/procedural in all non-congregate settings.
- Essential and non-essential in-person training
- Non-essential contractor visits

Family Information Night

- We will be looking to host our next Family Information Night in late April. Please stay tuned for more details soon.

Phase One Organization Structure Update

- We have shared the details of the phase one structure framework with all employees and families. **The target date for phase one implementation is Monday, May 16, 2022.**

Renovations Projects

As the month of April approaches, Kim Racher has been hard at work with the scheduling of two significant renovation projects in Petrolia.

- Washroom and office renovations at the CSD building.
- Two bachelor styles units to be created on the lower level of our building located at 432 Albany St (former laundromat).



Self-Advocates Open Forum (Hosted by Council of Community Living Ontario)

CALLING ALL SELF-ADVOCATES

For an Open Forum Discussion

Hosted By: The Council of Community Living Ontario

Calling all Self-Advocates and People who have a disability!
Are you passionate about advocacy and making a difference? Would you like the opportunity to share your concerns and questions about issues that affect the quality of life for people who have a disability? Do you have thoughts and ideas to contribute to the conversation? Then we invite you to a webinar hosted by The Council of Community Living Ontario. [Join us](#) in this safe space to hear about issues that affect the lives of people who have a disability in Ontario, engage in discussion, and make a difference!

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Registration is open! Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrc-uoqzlrGNau-UAbfwB_DWkPrs85LRCx

Reminders

Third & Fourth Dose COVID-19 Vaccinations & Uploads to OTR

- LCDS, Lambton Public Health and MCCSS continue to encourage third and fourth dose COVID-19 vaccinations for all our employees and people we support. Here is a direct link to the Lambton Public Health booking portal - <https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/booster-dose/>

Thank you everyone. Be safe and well!

Sincerely,

EMT

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