

October 22, 2020

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Lambton Public Health

**FROM:** Linda Chihab  
Director, West Region

**SUBJECT:** MCCSS COVID-19 Wave 2 Congregate Care  
Notice of Additional Precautions

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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 Lambton County 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 Lambton 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).

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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.

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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 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,



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Regional Director

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