

Families, Volunteers, Community Partners and Friends

Community Living Kingston and District (CLKD) continues to monitor developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Increasingly preventive and responsive measures have been, and will continue to be implemented as the situation evolves, particularly if the level of risk escalates. There are currently no known cases of coronavirus in the Kingston or Gananoque areas, however we will continue to collaborate with the Public Health Unit and other local, provincial and international health authorities to monitor the situation.

The health, safety and wellness of the individuals we support, families, employees and volunteers is our primary concern and will drive the decisions we make to manage this threat. Our organization serves individuals who are generally very vulnerable to suffering the worst effects of an illness, including those associated with the coronavirus. With that in mind, CLKD is taking the immediate measures necessary to mitigate the spread of infection and will intensify those efforts as circumstances dictate.

We have taken the precautionary steps of ordering additional supplies such as surgical masks, gowns, safety goggles, vinyl gloves, hand sanitizer and other disinfectant and cleaning supplies to be made available at program locations, particularly residential services. We are also restricting participation in any large group activities for employees and persons served, effective immediately. Consequently, we have suspended service at our day support programs, those being Options (Bath Road), CO2 (Princess Street), and Milestones (Elliott Avenue). Overnight and trip respite service has also been cancelled indefinitely. Program Managers and Coordinators have been phoning families to inform them of these changes and to offer support to make alternative arrangements where possible going forward. More service disruptions may be announced in the days ahead depending upon how the situation develops.

Our residential services will be maintained although supports may be modified for those in non-essential arrangements as circumstances warrant. For our 24 hour operations at group living locations, those services are considered essential and will not change apart from restricting participation in community events, practicing social distancing (limited contact with others, handling of materials, etc.), and restricting visitation. All employees have been reminded to strictly adhere to guidelines for universal precautions such as proper hand washing, coughing and sneezing techniques, and cleaning and disinfecting common areas and frequently touched surfaces. Anyone with cold or flu like symptoms has been instructed to stay home and self-isolate. Additionally and consistent with direction from the federal and provincial governments, restrictions, advisories and self-isolation procedures related to staff travel have been implemented. Consistent with this, all travel to and participation in conferences and workshops has been cancelled.

Visitors to agency controlled locations such as our offices in Kingston and Gananoque as well as program locations will be tightly controlled. This will include screening everyone who is entering the premises in order to protect from infection. These procedures will be vigorously implemented at our residential locations where we support individuals whose health is complex, fragile or compromised.

Community Living Kingston and District leadership will continue to work closely with the organization's Joint Health and Safety Committee to manage this situation in a proactive and effective manner as it progresses. We will keep our stakeholders informed of any further developments or changes as they occur. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to connect with me or any member of our management team if you have any questions.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Peter Sproul
Executive Director