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June 30, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
MCCSS Transfer Payment Recipients

FROM: Allan Hampel, A/Director - North Region
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

SUBJECT: **Upcoming Changes to MCCSS Guidance for Congregate Settings**

Our Ministry continues to review emerging evidence in collaboration with health system partners and stakeholders to understand the most appropriate COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures for MCCSS-funded and licensed congregate living settings.

I am writing to highlight the key changes to current MCCSS measures that will come into effect following the province's move to Step Two of the [Roadmap to Reopen](#) on June 30, 2021.

This information is intended to support your ongoing internal agency planning and continued communication with residents and families.

A detailed and consolidated guidance document with an effective date will be issued in early July. Information will also be posted on the MCCSS website.

What will change for MCCSS-funded and licensed congregate living settings beginning in Step Two:

- Non-essential indoor visits will be permitted in alignment with the indoor social gathering limits outlined in the [Roadmap to Reopen](#) (e.g. five people in Step Two).

- Visits must be scheduled and supervised, and mandatory screening, masking/eye protection and physical distancing will be required.
- Overnight absences (essential and general) will be permitted.
 - Upon return, residents will continue to follow the 14-day precautions unless they have received a negative COVID-19 PCR test result.

What you can expect will stay the same:

- Service providers will continue to follow local public health direction related to increased community spread.
- Use of a surgical/procedure mask and eye protection for staff and visitors will continue.
- All outdoor visits will continue to be permitted in alignment with outdoor social gathering limits in in the [Roadmap to Reopen](#) (e.g. 25 people in Step Two).
- Brief physical contact between residents and visitors (essential and non-essential) will continue to be permitted with use of a surgical/procedure mask and eye protection.
- Short-stay absences will continue to be permitted in alignment with Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#).
- All positive COVID-19 cases of staff and/or residents will be reported to the ministry via existing processes (i.e. SOR for Serious Illness - communicable disease).
- Rapid antigen testing will continue to be considered an additional screening tool only and will not alter existing required IPAC measures.

Note for TPR operators of youth justice open and secure custody/detention facilities: the above noted changes do not apply to youth justice open and secure custody/detention facilities. Please continue to follow existing direction which can be found on the following government [website](#).

Proactive communication about guidance changes:

Service providers are requested to update their COVID-19-related policies and procedures and to proactively communicate changes related to visits/absences with residents, families/friends and staff.

Guidance for MCCSS-funded non-residential congregate service settings:

In alignment with Step Two, the consolidated MCCSS COVID-19 guidance will also include direction for non-residential congregate settings (including day supports for adults with developmental disabilities) and will consider any updated guidance issued by the MOH, Public Health Ontario (PHO), or other relevant authorities.

As a reminder, MCCSS funded and licensed congregate living settings must continue to ensure compliance with all applicable legislation, which may include the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*, the *Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008* and human rights legislation.

Please share this communication broadly with any/all providers that your organization contracts/sub-contracts with to provide supports in a congregate setting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your MCCSS program supervisor or ministry contact.

Sincerely,

'original signed by'

Allan Hampel A/Director
North Region