

To: **Clients, Families and Friends**
CC: **Staff and Board of Directors**
From: Sherry Kerr, Executive Director
Date: March 22, 2022
Re: Mask Mandates

Although the Provincial government has lifted the mask mandates in most environments – it is important to share that within all healthcare facilities – **masks are still mandatory** along with other personal protective equipment guidelines.

I would like to remind everyone that staff will continue to wear masks when providing services to clients, and at all times when inside. It is also expected that clients, wherever possible, will continue to wear masks during their care routines.

Participation Support Services continues to closely follow the guidance released for Long-Term Care/Retirement Homes regarding COVID Infection Control and visitors. This is to ensure the ongoing safety of the people we support, their families and our staff and their families.

Participation Support Services has returned to having indoor and outdoor visitors at both the Stedman House and Bell Lane locations. I would note that there are restrictions and practices that must be maintained at this time.

Generally, visitors will only be permitted if the home is not in an **'outbreak'** or **'potential outbreak,'** situation as defined by the Brant County Public Health Unit. This information is accessible on the Brant County Health Unit website under the Infectious Disease - COVID information. As well, the Supervisor in each location is happy to discuss the status of the home with residents' family and friends.

The link for the visitor's policy is provided here for your convenience.

Individual visitors will not be permitted to see an individual who is in isolation for suspected or confirmed COVID.

Visitors are reminded that an appointment must be booked for either an indoor or outdoor visit. Indoor visitors must be fully vaccinated and wear a medical mask at all times when visiting. Physical distancing is required.

Outdoor visitors must always wear a mask when visiting and remain physically distanced.



The residents at both the Stedman House and Bell Lane have resumed out of home activities. To ensure the safety of all concerned, residents who do attend out of home activities are being tested via a rapid antigen test, 3 days per week.

Overnight outings have also resumed and Participation Support Services has used the guidance regarding testing and isolation as per the Ministry of Long-Term Care. All outings/overnight absences must be coordinated with the Supervisor/Management of the home.

Staff will continue to actively monitor all residents for signs and symptoms of COVID.

Isolation periods for staff who have tested positive for COVID or have had a close contact with someone with COVID remains unchanged. Thus, between staff shortages due to isolation periods and the general PSW shortage, staffing challenges in all programs continues to be a serious concern and interruptions in service delivery continues to be the norm.

Although a resolution to the PSW staffing crisis alludes the organization, it is hoped that COVID does become a manageable infectious disease within the province and particularly within our organization. It is expected that COVID restrictions within healthcare will be eased by the end of April.

Please feel free to reach out to me skerr@pssbrantford.org at any time with any questions or concerns.

With Regards,

Sherry R. Kerr, Executive Director