

To: **Clients, Families and Friends**
CC: **Staff and Board of Directors**
From: Sherry Kerr, Executive Director
Date: December 20, 2021
Re: Updates and Omicron

Further to my memo last week – Participation Support Services has been monitoring the local and Provincial COVID-19 situation very closely. Maintaining the health and safety of the people we support, and our staff continues to be extremely important and complex.

Due to the heightened concern of the Omicron variant – Participation Support Services is changing the outing/visitor’s policy until further notice, regardless of vaccination status:

The Stedman House and Bell Lane Sites:

1. Outings for both the Stedman House and Bell Lane are limited to medical appointments.
2. Overnight outings are not recommended. However, if a person chooses to leave the facility to go on an overnight outing – they will be subject to a 10-day quarantine upon return and will have to return with a negative PCR test (maximum 24 hours) and have a PCR test at day seven of return (at their own cost)
3. All inside visits are cancelled – outside visits are permitted with the use of medical masks and social distancing. Appointments are still required.
4. Caregivers must be fully vaccinated (unless the resident has been deemed palliative) and must provide a PCR test before entering (maximum 24 hours). As a reminder only family members/ friends who provide direct care to their family member are considered caregivers.

Colborne/Outreach/Assisted Living Clients:

1. For your own safety please limit contacts as much as possible – current Provincial guidelines limit gatherings to ten people inside and twenty-five people outside.
2. Clients are required to wear masks, if tolerated, for the duration of visits from Participation Support Services staff. A doctor’s note will be required if a mask can not be tolerated.
3. Staff will continue to screen before each visit– if anyone in the household is quarantined due to COVID-19, the visit may be cancelled and the ability to have an alternate arrangement for care will be assessed.
4. Clients are reminded to follow all public health/provincial guidelines. Failure to do so may result in cancelled visits.

We had all hoped this Christmas Season would be closer to normal for you, your family members, and staff. We are all disappointed; however, we are doing our best to avoid outbreaks and situations that will further compromise the resources available to us to manage COVID-19.



Again, 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

