



Memo

To: ***Clients and Families***

CC: **Board of Directors**

From: Sherry Kerr, Executive Director

Date: January 6, 2021

Re: COVID-19 – UPDATE – Visitors and Essential Outings

Happy New Year!! On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I hope the 2021 year will be very different from the 2020 year. Continuing to keep all the people we support and our staff healthy and safe and COVID-19 free remains our collective, number one goal.

As we are all too aware, the COVID-19 virus has reached serious levels in the Brantford Brant community, like other city centers in Ontario. As well, as of December 26th, the Province entered a lockdown.

During the state of lockdown, the very difficult decision was made by Participation Support Services to close the Bell Lane and Stedman House to indoor and outdoor non-essential visitors. As well, folks supported in these locations are only to leave to go to necessary medical appointments. We have determined that Participation Support Services only has the resources to allow 'essential visitors' to those who perform necessary personal, and/or medical support that cannot be provided by the staff.

Our staff at Colborne Street continue to provide as much support as possible to ensure our clientele there do not need to leave the building for anything other than medical appointments. Again, all clients within the building are strongly encouraged to restrict visitors. Staff continue to screen every client, in every program, before each visit and wear all personal protective equipment as advised by the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Unit.

Participation Support Services is very fortunate and grateful for the exemplary support from the Public Health Unit to help problem solve any possible COVID-19 situation encountered. We firmly believe that the tireless efforts of the front-line staff and management have, to date, kept Participation Support Services COVID-19 free. We will continue to be relentless in this pursuit.

In good news – the vaccines have arrived in Brantford this week. Vaccinations are being coordinated between the Brant County Health Unit, the Brant Community Health Care System, and the Brant Paramedics. Participation Support Services residents and staff at Bell Lane and Stedman House have been identified as critical to be provided the vaccine early in the vaccination program. We understand that vaccinations will be available to all other clientele and staff also early in the vaccination program. I do anticipate more details on the vaccination program in the next few days. Families that are normally advised of any vaccinations will be advised about the COVID-19 vaccination when the details are available.

Again, wishing you all the best as we enter this New Year – and with confidence that the COVID-19 vaccines will provide much relief to our current situation. Please feel free to email me directly at skerr@pssbrantford.org with any questions or concerns.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherry R. Kerr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sherry R. Kerr, Executive Director