

Memo

To: Family Members
CC: Board of Directors
From: Sherry Kerr, Executive Director
Date: May 29, 2020
Re: FAMILY/COMMUNITY UPDATE

First let me apologize for not having provided an update in such a long time. Some days and weeks feel like months and years and some feel like they have gone by in seconds!

Since April 11th many guidelines, regulations and directives have been received from the Provincial Government and the Ministry of Health.

Participation Support Services continues to adopt and adhere to as many directives as possible released by the Ministry of Health, especially regarding Long Term Care and Retirement Homes as well as Home and Community Care. The people we support in all our services are the most vulnerable to the critical effects of COVID 19 and hence, we feel this is the best course for the organization to ensure both client and staff safety.

We do continue to screen all persons supported and staff daily to ensure that anyone who has symptoms (as per the guidelines) get immediate testing and are isolated from others.

As well, we continue to restrict movement in our Supportive Housing sites (Bell Lane, the Stedman House, and Colborne Street apartment) to only staff and essential visitors (nurses, other health care professionals).

Our PPE supply is stable, and we do continue to source these resources. Staff continue to follow the guidelines regarding the use of PPE's as outlined in the specific directives received.

Last Friday our Bell Lane and Stedman House site participated in a 'sweep' of COVID-19 testing, as per the Ministry of Health's direction for congregate living environments. To date, no client or staff have tested positively for COVID 19, inclusive of the sweep last Friday, and we are extremely grateful for this.

Having said that, this has been the result of the people we support and staff's diligence to adhere to all State of Emergency protocols and yes, unfortunately not being able to leave their homes or have visitors.



Although many workplaces and health care facilities are working to re-open, the guidelines for Long Term Care and Retirement Homes and Home and Community Care remain very strict, with no indication of when this will change. As the Premier has extended the State of Emergency until June 9th and the City has followed suit – I can not estimate when the Ministry of Health will change the directives for Long Term Care and Retirement Homes and hence when Participation Support Services will make revisions to it's current practices.

This has been and I suspect will continue to be a very long and difficult time for the people we support, their families and our staff.

However, all are coping relatively well. We are monitoring each individuals' health status as we know this isolation can have effects on both mental and other physical health.

The Board of Directors and Management of Participation Support Services are committed to the ongoing health and safety of all during this continued global health care crisis.

As always if you have any questions, concerns, ideas or would like to know how you can help support the people supported or staff at Participation Support Services; please feel free to contact me at skerr@pssbrantford.org.

With warm regards,

Sherry

