

To: Parents/ Guardians/ Community Partners

From: Community Living York South (CLYS)

Re: **COVID-19**

Date: March 13, 2020

As you are aware, COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that can cause serious respiratory illness. This disease poses a particular threat for the people we support, many of whom are elders and/or have weakened immune systems or respiratory problems.

While the risk in Ontario remains low, we are being diligent about being proactive to protect the people we support and our staff from infection; Community Living York South (CLYS) is putting in place the following interim protocols to reduce the risk:

- **Enhanced Environmental Hygiene**
- **Respiratory Etiquette and Hand Hygiene** (staff are directed to consistently wash their hands with soap and water and assist the people we support to do the same, etc.
- **Sick staff** (staff with respiratory illness/ cold or flu-like symptoms are asked to stay home and provide medical clearance to return to work)
- **Staff Travel** (staff that may have travelled to infected countries are asked to follow Public Health Authority guidelines. In case of a recent travel (in the last 14 days) of a staff or their family member from Hubei Province, China (Including Wuhan City), Italy or Iran, or from a cruise ship, staff are required to self-isolate for 14 days and can only return to work following a medical clearance). All staff are required to do a disclosure of their travel history as well as the travel history of a family member living with them, or in close contact with them.)

*Empowering people with an intellectual disability
to live, learn, work, and participate in their community.*

*Autonomisant des personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle,
avec des moyens de vivre, d'apprendre, de travailler et de participer à leur communauté.*

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- Given the risks associated with COVID-19 and as part of our due diligence, effective immediately, all entries will be locked. All visitors and participants visiting any of CLYS programs, offices or group residential homes will be required to fill in the Respiratory Infection Visitor Screening Form and have their temperature taken before they can enter the premises.

Caregivers, family members, community partners and persons supported that may have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 are asked to refrain from visiting CLYS premises. Parents, guardians and persons supported with recent travel history to Iran, China or Italy, or have been in a cruise ship in the last 14 days are requested to keep their son/daughter at home in isolation until the self-isolation period is over/ they are deemed fit to return to programs following a written medical clearance by their health care practitioner.

If the persons supported or their family member has recently travelled to outside of Canada, they may be asked to stay at home if they are experiencing any cold/flu like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, and lung congestion). Persons supported may be asked to provide a medical clearance certificate in order to return to our programs. We also advise you to regularly check Public Health advisories for travel restrictions.

Please do not bring your son/daughter to any CLYS programs if they have cold or flu-like symptoms (cough, elevated temperature, fever, etc.). If your son/daughter has an elevated temperature, we will notify you immediately and ask that they be picked up from the program and medical attention is sought. *Please contact the program supervisor to inform them.*

If your son/daughter resides in a CLYS group residential home, we ask that home visits be temporarily ceased if you or a family member have a respiratory illness and/or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 until medical clearance is given – *please contact the group home supervisor to inform them.*

In the event that COVID-19 begins to spread in the community, changes in programming may be necessary, including reductions in community-based activities, reducing participation in congregated activities etc. You will be notified in the event of any programming changes if and when they are implemented.

If cases of COVID-19 are confirmed at CLYS, we will notify families and take steps in conjunction with our local health department to ensure that our locations are safe for staff, our community partners and the people we support.

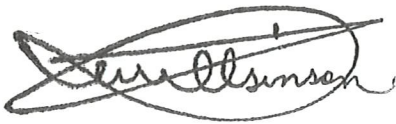
At Community Living York South, we are proud of our diversity and see this diversity as a source of strength. We know that concerns about this virus can create feelings of anxiety and concern for our families. As a caring and inclusive community, we want to ensure that we are listening to informed and accurate sources of information to avoid potential incidents of discrimination as a result of this virus. Making assumptions, even

with positive intentions of safety, about perceived risks and requests or demands for actions different from those provided by public health authorities may be seen as demonstrating bias.

Community Living York South remains in close contact with Public Health Authorities and will continue to share information with families as requested by Public Health Authorities. Please continue to visit www.york.ca/covid19 or www.ontario.ca/coronavirus regularly for up to date information.

We also encourage you to visit our website at www.communitylivingyorksouth.ca for more updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Wilkinson", enclosed within a large, loopy oval scribble.

Don Wilkinson

Executive Director