

Ontario has announced a province wide shut down starting December 26, 2020. The shut down will differ in length depending on the communities in which people live. For Northern Ontario, the shutdown will remain in place until January 9, 2021, for Southern Ontario the shutdown will remain in place until January 23, 2021. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has released the following directives to be applied at direct support locations for the duration of the lock down. A copy of the directives from MCCSS can be found on the CHconnect under COVID-19 Resources page.

During the lock down the following previously issued direction from MCCSS is suspended

- MCCSS Visitor's Guidelines 2.0: Re-Opening Congregate Living Settings
- MCCSS Wave 2 Enhanced Precautions memos
- Operational Guideline on Universal Source Control

### Interim Direction During Lock Down

#### Essential Visits in Support locations – Indoors

- Permitted for essential visitors only
  - Essential visitor is defined as one who:
    - Performs essential services to support the ongoing operation of a service agency (including a contractor); and/or,
    - Is considered necessary to maintain the health, wellness and safety, or any applicable legal rights, of a congregate care resident.
  - An essential visitor may include but is not limited to the following:
    - A parent/guardian
    - Social service worker (e.g., child welfare workers, day program operators etc.)
    - Health care providers (e.g., doctor, nurse, personal support workers, etc.)
- Essential visitors are required to wear a commercial medical mask and eye protection provided by Christian Horizons.
- **Virtual visits are to be strongly encouraged and facilitated wherever possible**

#### Essential Visits in Support locations – Outdoors

- Permitted only for essential visitors
  - See above for definition of essential visitor
- At minimum, a medical mask provided by Christian Horizons is to be worn at all times by the essential visitor

#### Short-Stay Absences and Outings

- Organized recreation activities outside of the congregate care setting are **suspended**.
  - Ex. Day programming or other group/public setting activities

- Essential health and well-being activities outside the residence are **permitted**.
  - Ex. Medical appointment, or work
- Off-site activities for physical/mental health that allow physical distancing are **permitted**
  - Ex. Going for a walk

### Essential Overnight Absences

- People we support are expected to stay in their setting as much as possible.
- Overnight absences are strongly discouraged. Overnight Absences are permitted where:
  - The absence is necessary to maintain the health, wellness and safety, or any applicable legal rights of the person supported.

### Enhanced Precautions Post Essential Overnight Visit

When a person returns to a Christian Horizons support location from a permitted essential overnight absence, they must follow enhanced precautions for **14-days**, including:

- Pass an active screening questionnaire that screens for signs and symptoms of, and potential exposures to COVID-19;
- Only receive essential visitors outdoors
- Monitor for symptoms;
- Avoid using common areas; however, if a common area cannot be avoided, the resident must wear a surgical/procedure mask if tolerated;
- Limit contact with other residents;
- Only participate in group activities if physical distancing is maintained (i.e., 6 feet or 2 meters) and the use of a surgical/procedure mask;
- Practice proper hand hygiene by washing their hands often;
- Adhere to respiratory etiquette; and,
- Continue to follow appropriate physical distancing guidelines (i.e., maintaining a distance of 6 feet or 2 meters).