

To: All Staff
From: Brad Saunders, CEO
Date: April 7, 2020
Re: Status of Services Across CLTO

Over the past month, Community Living Toronto (CLTO) has taken rapid and necessary steps to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these changes came about as a result of information that has been updated or amended as we learn to adapt to the crisis. The purpose of this communication is to update you on our work and share some key new information regarding the continuation of these measures.

Group Homes

We have realigned our work to focus all of our efforts on keeping the people we support and our staff safe from COVID-19. Active screening measures are in place in all our sites across CLTO. Earlier this month, we suspended home and family visits in order to limit the possibility of spreading COVID-19 through movement in-and-out of our sites. This was a difficult but necessary decision. Due to the continued evolution of the situation, this measure is extended to May 18, 2020.

Day Programs

Day programs across CLTO were suspended in accordance with Public Health guidance around physical distancing and limiting journeys outside the home to essential needs only. This measure is extended until May 18, 2020.

Respite

Our respite programs have been suspended to protect both individuals in support and staff from exposure to COVID-19. This closure has been applied across CLTO respite programs, including Lawson, McMillan, TREADD, and Ennerdale. This was necessary to protect the health of everyone involved. In accordance with advice from Public Health authorities, respite services across the Association will remain closed until May 18, 2020.

CLTO Offices

CLTO has taken steps to significantly limit the number of people entering our administrative offices across the city, including our Head Office at 20 Spadina and all regional offices. Only essential staff are permitted entry to our offices, and anyone entering must complete a Visitor Sign-In Log and be actively screened before proceeding into the building. These measures will remain in effect until May 18, 2020. As part of this measure, all in-person training is suspended across the Association.

Individualized Supports, LIGHTS, APSW, and Supported Independent Living

Many individuals supported or affiliated with CLTO live independently in the community with some or infrequent services from CLTO. We have recommended that people living independently take measures to limit the number of people entering their homes and that they practice physical distancing as much as possible. We have provided PPE to households or visiting staff where physical distancing is not possible.

Events Across CLTO

On the advice of Public Health authorities and in compliance with City of Toronto restrictions on gatherings and permitted events, we have cancelled all events across the organization up to July 1, 2020. We look forward to rescheduling many of these events when the situation permits.

Employment Supports

As much as possible, our employment supports continue to match individuals seeking work. We also continue to support individuals who are working in a CLTO-facilitated placement.

We know that these measures have significantly impacted the lives of the thousands of people we support, their families, and our staff. You will hear from us regularly regarding resources and virtual offerings that may help us all manage through the COVID-19 pandemic, such as newsletters and new program models for community-based services. We are also looking at how we can support individuals in the community who rely on our services and support in new ways, using technology and innovative approaches.

There is no way around the fact that this is a difficult time for everyone. We are working around the clock to keep people safe and support individuals and families through this crisis. We will continue to update you regularly as we evolve our COVID-19 pandemic response.