

From: Brad Saunders, CEO

Date: June 30, 2021

Re: CLTO COVID-19 Measures Extended to September 13, 2021

Over the past year and a half, 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 from public health authorities that has been updated or amended as we have adapted to the crisis. We have extended many of these measures a number of times since March 2020. We are fortunate to begin to remove some of these restrictions as COVID-19 case counts drop and vaccine take-up grows. To enable careful planning, reopening, and safe removal of restrictions, we are extending our various measures to September 13, 2021. We hope to be able to lift some restrictions gradually prior to this date, subject to directives and guidelines from Public Health and government authorities.

Group Homes

Web-based active screening measures are in place in all our sites and staff have been required to limit their employment in the vulnerable person sector to CLTO and school boards. Our staff are trained and continuously supported in infection prevention and control, cleaning, and disinfection protocols. Individuals in CLTO residential programs have been receiving meaningful virtual and in-person day supports in their homes. Our vaccination drive continues for both staff and individuals in support.

Per recent guidelines, visitors to CLTO sites are now able to enjoy outings in the community, such as a park visit or a meal on a patio. We are also pleased to announce that hugs can now be safely enjoyed during a visit.

In keeping with recent provincial guidelines, all visits to CLTO sites must be pre-scheduled with as much notice as possible. Indoor visits to CLTO residential sites are limited to “essential visitors” only. All other visits must be conducted outside. Essential visitors may include family members providing care, healthcare providers, and maintenance staff. Where possible and practical, essential family visits should be conducted outdoors while observing physical distancing, hand hygiene, and active screening measures. CLTO will provide masks, face shields, and any other personal protective equipment necessary to keep these visits safe. Essential overnight absences will continue as they have been since summer 2020.

Specific CLTO sites may be subject to further restrictions beyond these guidelines. Please consult with the site supervisor or manager with questions regarding site-specific restrictions.

These measures remain in effect until September 13, 2021. We will update these restrictions prior to September 13 if permitted to do so by the provincial government.

Community Participation Supports (Day Programs)

Community Participation Supports will restart on a small scale the week of July 12, 2021. Our initial roll-out will feature small cohorts at a few sites across CLTO. As pandemic restrictions ease, we hope to grow the number of cohorts and locations so we can welcome more individuals into our programs.

While we cannot say exactly what will happen over the next few months, we know that restarting our services as we knew them is not an option. This is an opportunity to redesign our services in a way that furthers our core mission of supporting the rights and choices of our community through smaller, more individualized program offerings.

Individualized Passport Supports

The Passport Team has continued to support individuals with their Passport funding throughout the pandemic. With the help of technology, staff have been providing virtual supports to many. Staff have also been providing in-person supports when possible while following public health guidelines. Passport Intake is ongoing, and we continue to meet with individuals from both the community and from CLTO residential services. As our communities begin to re-open and activities become available, we will resume community participation supports as possible.

Virtual Offerings

We continue to offer virtual day supports as part of our menu of options at CLTO. These programs are offered via Zoom from 10AM to 3PM every day by trained CLTO facilitators. Activities include exercise classes, karaoke, and movie screenings. We also host fun activities on Facebook Live from our Community Living Toronto page. Highlights include Zumba, painting demonstrations, and accessible yoga. Beyond these measures, we are ensuring that all our group homes have the technology they need to keep the people we support happy and connected to their families and friends. Please contact your supervisor to arrange phone calls, FaceTime chats, or other virtual connections with your family member.

Respite

We will begin to restart some daytime respite programming on a small scale starting the week of July 5, 2021. As with Community Participation Supports, we are starting with small cohorts in accordance with Public Health guidelines and government restrictions. Overnight respite will restart at a later date. We hope to safely grow our programs over the summer and welcome more participants as pandemic restrictions ease.

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 Rd and all regional offices. Only essential staff are permitted entry to our offices, and anyone entering must wear a mask and be actively screened before proceeding into the building. Staff entering our Head Office or Regional Offices are required to wear facial protection (eye protection and a mask) during their workday. In some cases, a physical barrier can replace the need for wearing eye protection. All in-person training remains suspended across the Association and required and mandatory training is being provided online. These measures will remain in effect until September 13, 2021.

Individualized Supports, LIGHTS, APSW, Family Supports, Home Management, and Supported Independent Living

Many individuals supported or affiliated with CLTO live independently in the community with some or infrequent services from CLTO. We continue to reach out and support new and existing families with children and adults living at home remotely or through safe drop-offs of necessary items. We have recommended that people living independently heed Public Health advice around indoor visits, masking, and vaccination. 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 scheduled in-person events across the organization.

Employment Supports

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

Shadow Lake

Shadow Lake will reopen for in-person camp on July 4, 2021. We expect to run the camp through the summer and are exploring adding another week in September. To help meet demand, we have increased capacity at the Camp to 25 guests per session. We have consulted various Public Health and Infection Prevention and Control authorities in preparation for reopening Shadow Lake to overnight guests in a safe and sustainable manner. In addition, we are hoping to offer Shadow Lake weekends starting in October and some week-long session over the coming year.

Virtual camp continues to provide fun and interesting activities from the comfort of your home. Please visit [MyCommunityHub.ca](https://mycommunityhub.ca) to register for virtual Shadow Lake camp sessions. Beyond these offerings, Shadow Lake staff are also offering free drop-in online programming via Facebook Live every Tuesday and Thursday. Please consult the Shadow Lake Facebook page for further information.

We must all continue to do our best to keep each other and our communities safe. Every day we see encouraging news regarding the distribution of life-saving vaccines across the country. Our CLTO vaccine roll-out is proceeding very well for both staff and individuals in support.

Community Living Toronto continues to monitor restrictions and the province-wide situation closely. As COVID-19 case counts and vaccination rates improve, we hope to be able to ease some of the restrictions listed above prior to September 13, 2021. Adhering to Public Health directives remains essential to maintaining and building-upon on the success we have all worked so hard to achieve. Please remain vigilant.

We will keep you informed as the situation unfolds. Thank you for your patience and understanding.