



February 19, 2021

Dear families, advocates and friends,

As you know the Stay at Home order and provincial lockdown has now ended. This lockdown resulted in a reduction of cases across the province and we are encouraging all employees to continue to minimize their contacts outside of immediate families and to maintain a 2 metre distance with others.

Since the lockdown has ended we are able to resume family visits **on an essential need basis only**. We have received correspondence from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services regarding this change. Their direction includes:

Visitors and Visiting:

Short stay absences must be limited to activities that enable health and important life activities (e.g. School, work, doctor's appointments etc). People we support are expected to practice physical distancing, hand hygiene and to wear a face covering when on a short stay absence.

Essential visits and essential overnight absences are permitted. Agencies can facilitate, on an individual resident basis, relationships that are necessary to maintain the health, wellness and safety in the context of overarching visitor restrictions.

Essential visitors must wear a surgical/procedure mask AND eye protection at all times.

Non-essential and designated indoor visits are prohibited.

Limited, supervised, non-essential outdoor visits with physical distancing are permitted. Visits must be scheduled in advance and visitors must wear a surgical/procedural mask AND eye protection at all times. Please see attached appendix for further information.

I can't stress enough the need for us to continue to remain vigilant. The new variants of the COVID-19 virus are much more contagious and many of the people we support are much likelier to have a bad outcome if they contract COVID-19. We are almost at the one-year mark celebrating **no cases of COVID-19 in both staff and people supported**. Please help us to achieve this milestone by carefully considering whether or not home and overnight visits are necessary.

Vaccine

Our local Public Health unit has been in touch with us to inquire about those who live in our congregant settings and the number of employees at each setting. We believe there may be little notice regarding immunization of those living in our homes. A requirement for receiving the vaccine will be completing signed consents. We may require some of you, who sign on behalf of your loved ones, for a consent to be signed quickly. Our Program Supervisors will be in touch with you regarding the best way to get in touch with you on short notice to receive those

consents provided to us by Public Health. Unfortunately, they do not provide consents in advance for signatures.

It is our continued priority to safeguard the health and safety of all of those we support in our homes as well as our exceptional staff teams. Thank you for your valuable support.

If you have any questions please contact Sonya Mehta (sonyam@pclkw.org) or Mary Anne Linka (maryannel@pclkw.org) via email or by contacting the office.

Sincerely,

Katherine Loveys
Executive Director
Parents for Community Living