

To: All Family and Visitors  
From Tracey Berman and Cathy Johnston- Directors of Operations  
Date: January 12, 2022  
Subject: COVID-19 updates as per MCCSS Directives

Dear Parent/Guardians/Visitors

Ontario is seeing a significant increase in COVID-19 spread and the new Omicron variant becoming the dominant strain. Early evidence shows that this variant transmits quickly, including to those that have received two doses of a recognized vaccine. The risk of transmission in congregate living settings (CLS) is particularly high and has resulted in several program locations at Community Living York South be in various stages of outbreak. The guidelines for isolation after contact with a positive case has put strain on our staffing situation. Community Living York South remains committed to ensuring that our COVID-19 pandemic safeguards, precautions, protocols and communication align with the most current guidance and direction available from local and provincial health authorities as it pertains to Developmental Services, Congregate Care settings.

Effective Thursday January 13, 2022, and until at least January 31, 2022, MCCSS is implementing the new requirements for additional temporary measures intended to help further mitigate the risk of transmission within these settings.

Effective January 13, 2022 and until at least January 31, 2022, service providers will be required to:

- Suspend non-essential visits to the congregate living setting (CLS). Virtual visits and telephone calls will be encouraged to maintain contact with your loved one.
- In accordance with Ministry policy, essential visitors will continue. These must be scheduled and restricted to a designated area. All visitors must provide a negative Rapid Antigen test at time of the visit. (Regardless of vaccination status). CLYS may not be able to provide families or private support staff with R.A.T. Kits due to supply shortages within the providence. Please reach out to the program ahead of visit to check on supply.
- Suspend non-essential resident overnight absences from the congregate living setting.

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to live, learn, work, and participate in their community.*

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avec des moyens de vivre, d'apprendre, de travailler et de participer à leur communauté.*

[www.communitylivingyorksouth.ca](http://www.communitylivingyorksouth.ca)

101 Edward Avenue  
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 5E5  
t. 905-884-9110 or 905-889-5239 f. 905-737-3284

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- In accordance with Ministry policy, essential overnight absences will continue.
- Short-stay absences (day outings) continue to be permitted provided they are in alignment with the modified version of Step two (2) of the Roadmap to Reopen and program is not in suspected or confirmed outbreak.

We wish to thank you for your continued patience and support while we navigate through these extraordinary challenges, sacrifices and efforts.

*\* Based on assessed level of risk to the safety and health of persons supported and/or staff, Community Living York South reserves the right to introduce heightened pandemic precautions (beyond the guidelines provided by MCCSS, Public Health, and other government and health authorities). To temporarily pause or revert to an earlier stage in provincial re-opening guidelines, and/or to apply either approach across one or more operating program in a site, specific manner.*

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