

18 December 2020

Dear people we support and families,

The holidays are a time for family to come together, enjoy each other's company, and reflect on what the past year has brought to their lives. We know this is important to you. This year, Public Health guidance is asking us to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. That means that coming together might need to look a little different. I would like to share the following information with you so you know how we are going to support you during the holidays this year. Offering congregate living supports through our Residential Services, Community Living Guelph Wellington has to balance restrictions set out by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, as well as what our local Public Health puts forward. Sometimes, this balancing act is easy because everything is in alignment. However, sometimes it's finding a balance and a blend between the two that also aligns with CLGW's mission.

As you know, earlier this week, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health moved into Red-Control, of the [COVID-19 Response Framework](#).

They are also strongly recommending that people stay home for the holidays, avoid any unnecessary contact, travel, or leaving of the home. While celebrating the holidays, they are recommending that you only celebrate with those who live within your household. To read more WDG Public Health's recommendations, please go here:

<https://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/news/stay-home-holidays>

Right now, MCCSS is still allowing Short Stay and Essential Overnight Visits. Therefore, we are going to help you plan to have your family visit if that is what you wish.

As a service provider, we understand that Short Stay and Essential Overnight Visits are good for a person's mental health and wellbeing.

We understand that there are a number of people we support who want to visit their families over the holidays. So, we have developed guidelines, which are a blend of the requirements between MCCSS and WDG Public Health. These guidelines will help maintain the good health and wellbeing of everyone. That includes people we support, their families, and our staff. It is an expectation that you follow these guidelines.

Holiday Short Stay and Essential Overnight Visits

1. The short stay or overnight essential visit must be necessary for the person's mental health and wellbeing.
2. The short stay or overnight essential visit is to their family's home.
3. The restrictions placed upon the people we support while living in a congregate setting, still apply when they are home with their family.
 - a. This means that when visiting the family home, trips outside of the home are for **essential reasons only** (work, volunteering, school, medical appointments or exercise).
 - b. Right now, **recreational activities outside of the residence are suspended**. This applies when visiting the family home too. Examples of recreational activities include: going to a restaurant or for coffee, visiting someone else's home, going bowling or to a movie theatre, going to the bank or getting a haircut or other non-essential personal care activities.
4. The person supported must not be visiting with any non-household members.
5. The number of people in the family home must be 5 or less.
6. The short stay or overnight essential visit must be pre-approved by the Supervisor or Manager.
7. People we support and their families are expected to follow the guidelines outlined in CLGW Safety Policy - SA38 Visitor Guidelines, available here: <https://clgw.ca/sa38>
8. If a person is staying overnight with their family, whether it's one night or many, they will be required to complete a 14-day enhanced precautions when returning to CLGW from their essential overnight visit. This is explained in SA38 Visitor Guidelines.
9. If a person develops COVID-19 related symptoms while on their short stay or overnight essential visit, they must remain at the family home. If symptoms present, please contact your Supervisor immediately to inform them, and contact Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health for next steps. The person cannot return to the residence until WDG Public Health gives the okay.

We know that this is a lot of information, and that you have some difficult decisions to make. It's challenging to find the balance between what's allowed, and what's not. We're in this together. We are collectively responsible for limiting exposure to COVID-19, and continuing to promote good health and wellbeing for everyone in our community.

Going home for the holidays is a choice that involves some risk. Our hope is that these guidelines will help to lessen the risks to the person going home, and to all of the people they will come into contact with while visiting the family and when they return to CLGW.

Thank you for your understanding, and for continuing to maintain the good health of your family.

Regards,



Cindy Kinnon
Executive Director