

22 December 2020

Dear people we support and families,

Yesterday, the Government of Ontario announced that all of Ontario will be entering lockdown as of December 26, at 12:01am. This lockdown will last for a minimum of 28 days for Southern Ontario communities.

While the lockdown is set to begin December 26, Public Health officials are strongly encouraging that people begin limiting their all non-essential activities now.

On Friday, we shared the guidelines for Short Stay and Essential Overnight Visits. While these guidelines were developed with the Red-Control framework in mind, they also balanced what the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services permitted for congregate settings like our Residential Services.

Those guidelines remain in effect. However, we are making the following changes to align with lockdown status:

- Any person going to their family home for a Short Stay or Essential Overnight Visit may do so, but will be required to be back at their CLGW residence by December 25, 2020 at 9:00pm.
- Anyone not returning to their CLGW residence by December 25, 2020 at 9:00pm will be required to stay at their family's home until the lockdown is lifted, or until their Supervisor and Service Manager can schedule a safe return date.
- People who stay at their family home beyond December 25, 2020 at 9:00pm will also be required to do a 14-day isolation upon their return. Additional precautionary measures may also be put into place by CLGW or Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.
- After December 25, 2020 at 9:00pm, Short Stay and Essential Overnight Visits will be suspended for the remainder of the lockdown.

Additionally, we are also waiting for more direction from MCCSS and Public Health, including if congregate settings will move into [the Comprehensive Precautions phase](#). Should there be any changes to our Short Stay and Essential Overnight Visits Guidelines, we'll be sure to share those as quickly as we can.

We understand these visits are important to you. These past nine months have been exceptionally difficult. Pandemic fatigue has been setting in for a while, and the desire to be with people around the holidays makes the impact of today's news even more difficult.

You, your family, and your peers have had to rise to the occasion, learning how to find ways through this pandemic. As a community, together it remains our duty and responsibility to minimize exposure to COVID-19. That means taking every precautionary step we can to keep people in good health.

While in lockdown, CLGW will continue to prioritize support in our Residential Services. While not our hope, prioritizing Residential Services may result in disruptions or delays to some of our other services.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, and your continued efforts to keep yourself, your family, and your peers safe and healthy.

Warm regards,



Cindy Kinnon
Executive Director

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 person must return from their short stay or essential overnight visit by December 25, 2020 at 9:00pm.**
 - a. **Anyone not returning by December 25, 2020 at 9:00pm will be required to stay at their family's home until the lockdown is lifted, or until a Supervisor or Service Manager can schedule a safe return date.**
 - b. **Anyone who stays at their family home beyond December 25, 2020 at 9:00pm will be required to do a 14-day isolation upon their return. Additional precautionary measures may also be put into place by CLGW or Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.**
4. 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.**
 - b. Right now, **recreational activities outside of the residence are suspended.** This applies when visiting the family home too.
5. The person supported must not be visiting with any non-household members.
6. The number of people in the family home must be 5 or less.
7. The short stay or overnight essential visit must be pre-approved by the Supervisor or Manager.
8. People we support and their families are expected to follow the guidelines outlined in SA38 Visitor Guidelines., available here: <https://clgw.ca/sa38>
9. 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.
10. 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, the person or a family member will be required to contact their 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.
11. **While in lockdown, Short Stay and Essential Overnight Visits will be suspended.**