

27 March 2020

Dear people we support and families,

Last night, the City of Guelph declared a state of emergency. Earlier, the County of Wellington and its seven municipalities also declared a state of emergency. Right now, these declarations appear to have no impact on the support we are providing but we will keep you informed if that changes.

To read more about the County of Wellington's declaration:

<https://www.wellington.ca/en/covid-19.aspx#>

To read more about the City of Guelph's declaration: <https://guelph.ca/2020/03/mayor-guthrie-declares-state-of-emergency-for-guelph-in-response-to-covid-19/>

Staff were tracking a newly developed cough by a person we support. They continued to monitor symptoms, and yesterday, escalated their concern with medical professionals. It was advised that the person be tested by Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health. We have done so, while also notifying all affected staff, people we support, and their families involved. The person supported is in self-isolation, as advised by WDG Public Health, and we are taking every preventative measure we can to ensure the health and wellbeing of all, while we wait for results.

One of our staff members notified us that they thought they may have come into contact with a potential COVID-19 case. They diligently began self-isolating after contact, and did not have any contact with people supported by CLGW, their families, or staff. This staff member has since been tested, and their results returned negative.

Another staff member has alerted us to their symptoms and concerns. They are also self-isolating, and have been tested.

These instances are not related. The staff members and the person supported have not had any contact with each other.

As we wait for results, we felt it necessary to inform you and your families. Even if the results come back negative, it's necessary for all of us to be aware of how real this virus is, and how close it is to the people who matter most to us.

While we know this is difficult news to receive, we have been, and will continue to do everything we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

All of our staff have been, and will continue to take a daily self-assessment prior to coming to work. They have also been using this assessment with the people we support to help identify any possible changes in health.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, we have been communicating with staff to self-monitor and self-isolate if they have any concerns. As an organization, we have taken additional steps to ensure that they are informed of updated legislation, as well as internal options, should they

need to be off work.

We have also been working with local grocery retailers, to ensure that our CLGW residences have the ability to either pickup or have groceries delivered, to mitigate any unnecessary contact.

As new cases and concerns arise, we will continue to notify any staff, people we support, and their families if they are a close contact. WDG Public Health will also notify anyone they deem an immediate risk, or who needs to self-monitor or self-isolate as a result possible exposure. We will also continue to take any advice and directives given by WDG Public Health.

Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health has the most up to date information, as well as helpful resources to point to through all of this. As an organization, we follow the lead of local public health officials, as well as provincial and federal health bodies. Resources and up to date facts are available at: <https://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/your-health/covid-19-information-public>

We will continue to keep you informed of any new developments, and you can read the latest at: clgw.ca/covid19

Regards,


Laura Hanley
Executive Director


Gerry Walsh
Board President