

2 April 2020

Dear people we support and families,

Last week, we informed you that a person we support was advised by health professionals to be tested for COVID-19. We also informed earlier this week that a third staff member was advised to be tested. Today, we're grateful that we can share that both tests have come back negative.

We do have a fourth staff member being tested, and we will share news as we receive it. Our staff continue to screen before every shift, and follow preventative measures that are in place to prioritize the health and wellbeing of the people we support.

At present, there are no changes to suspended services and access. All CLGW locations remain closed to the public and day programs remain suspended.

Quite a few families have reached out, either directly to myself or to their Direct Support Professionals and supervisors. We appreciate your notes of thanks and creative ideas to help us stay connected during this time.

In the coming days, you will see a new CLGW fundraiser for the people we support. We will be reaching out to the community to help raise funds to purchase video-enabled tablets for each of our CLGW residences. We will also be seeking donations of refurbished and gently used devices and tablets that can be given directly to those that we support, who do not have a device, to stay in touch with their families and friends. Stay tuned, and if you have any connections who may be interested in supporting, please contact Annie Knight, Marketing and Development Lead, at annieknight@clgw.ca.

We have all been banding together during this time, to come up with ideas and activities to boost morale. For the people we support, it's difficult right now to establish a routine or maintain some resemblance to normal. While we work on ways to stay engaged, connected, and bring little moments of happiness into our everyday, we continue to thank you for bringing forward ideas. Our Volunteer Engagement Coordinator, Karen Calzonetti, has been working with staff to keep these ideas flowing. If you have ideas, please connect with Karen at karencalzonetti@clgw.ca.

Earlier this week, members of the community donated a variety of handmade masks. Thank you for your tremendous generosity, and thinking of us during this time of need. As this pandemic continues, there will be a variety of resources we will use at a greater than normal rate. And it's thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of our community that we will continue to have enough supply as the demand increases.

Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health continues to be your most up to date resource for COVID-19. 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