

21 May 2020

Dear people we support and families,

On Tuesday, we received news from the Government of Ontario [that all emergency orders have been extended through to May 29<sup>th</sup>](#).

This week, we also learned that Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health will be moving forward with universal surveillance testing in congregate care settings. This meets a provincial directive to intensify efforts that could help stop and contain the spread of COVID-19. WDG Public Health will be partnering with local health care organizations to implement testing. They will be testing all residents and staff. Those who are asymptomatic are being tested for surveillance purposes.

For Community Living Guelph Wellington, this means a staggered approach to testing. We are working with WDG Public Health to schedule a few residences a time. Each of these residences will be notified and given more information closer to their testing date.

It's important to us that the people we support give appropriate consent prior to having a test administered. Under no circumstances can a CLGW employee give consent, written or verbal. Many of the people we support can make an informed decision and give consent. However, some cannot, and a substitute decision maker will need to be notified. As a family member for someone that we support, please know that you may receive this call.

WDG Public Health has informed us that once testing is complete, it may take between 3 and 10 days to receive results. CLGW will receive the results for the people we support. Staff members will receive their own results directly. We are requiring staff to report their results to CLGW.

We understand that universal testing may increase the number of staff or people we support who test positive even though they are asymptomatic. Through this period, we will continue to employ all preventative measures that are available to us, and will scale those measures based on positive results. We will also follow directives given by Public Health to ensure the health and wellbeing of the people we support and our staff.

As we move into the next phases of this pandemic, we are revisiting our one-employer and our single work-site initiatives. At this time, we are extending both preventative measures through to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This helps our scheduling team effectively prepare for the coming months, including creating flexibility for time off requests for staff. Our teams have been working tirelessly through all of this, and being able to take time off is essential for the mental health of our staff. However, we recognize that new information, the state of emergency or emergency orders may be lifted before the end of August. Should circumstances change, we will revisit this extension.

At this time, all previously suspended services and access will remain suspended until further notice.

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

Regards,

  
**Laura Hanley**  
Executive Director

  
**Gerry Walsh**  
Board President