

20 November 2020

Dear people we support and families,

In follow up to Tuesday's letter, we wanted to provide some clarity around the restrictions involved in Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services' [Enhanced Precautions](#).

Essential visitors are permitted

Essential visitors are people who visit for the purposes of maintaining the health, wellbeing and safety, or any applicable legal rights, of someone living in our residences. This visitor could be: a social services worker, a health care provider, or even a family member or caregiver visiting for these specific purposes.

Essential visitors may also be service providers that are providing an essential service that supports the ongoing operation of the residence (i.e. a contractor).

Non-essential visits are permitted, with limitations:

- Supervised only
- Physically distanced only
- Outdoor visits only
- **Indoor visits are suspended**

Non-essential visits are generally social visits, or visitors who provide a non-essential service (such as family or friend social visits).

Non-essential visits may still occur outside. However, indoor visits by non-essential visitors are suspended.

Day programs/supports are permitted, but limited to a max group size (including staff) of 5 people

CLGW residents attending day programs or day supports with any service provider, can attend if the maximum group size is 5 people (including staff), while in MCCSS's Enhanced Precautions.

Recreational activities outside of the residence are suspended (activities like going to a restaurant or for coffee, going bowling or to a movie theatre, going to the bank or getting a haircut)

While in MCCSS's Enhanced Precautions, people supported living in residences are limited in the activities they may do.

The intent behind limiting recreational activities outside of the residence, is to limit the spread of COVID-19. Taking part in recreational activities that are indoors (such as walking inside a mall), removing the mask (i.e. eating or drinking in close proximity with others), or being in situations where social distancing can't be maintained (such as shopping), are all factors in why recreational activities are limited.

We understand this is a broad restriction, and it's quite difficult to put into practice.

However, we understand that mental health is important. Activities like nature walks, van rides, or even just a walk around the neighbourhood, while limiting the number of people you have contact with, are permitted.

At this time, please limit activities to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health area. Other Public Health jurisdictions have differing precautions in place that would need to be reviewed and planned for if leaving WDG Public Health's area.

If there's any concern or questions, please get in touch with your supervisor.

Health and well-being activities outside of residence are permitted (activities like a medical appointment, school, work, **volunteering** or visiting family at their family home)

Medical appointments, school, work, volunteering or visiting family at their family home are all important to maintaining the health and well-being of the people we support.

At this time, please limit activities to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health area. Other Public Health jurisdictions have differing precautions in place that would need to be reviewed and planned for if leaving WDG Public Health's area.

While visiting the family home, we are requesting that families recognize and follow the same restrictions placed upon our residences by MCCSS, while the person is visiting their home. That means following the current restrictions placed upon us by MCCSS ([Enhanced Precautions](#)), the restrictions placed upon our entire communities ([Orange-Restrict](#)), as well as the rules and guidelines for visits, created in consultation with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. For example, while visiting the family home, the person supported shouldn't be visiting with non-household members. They also shouldn't be going to other people's homes, or having any indoor visits. They also shouldn't be going to a restaurant, shopping, or other recreational activities outside of the family home.

If you have any questions or concerns about what a health and well-being activity may be, please get in touch with your supervisor.

Essential overnight absences are permitted

Like an essential visitor, essential overnight absences are permitted for the health and well-being of the people we support.

Visiting the family home is permitted. However, we are requesting that families recognize and follow the same restrictions placed upon our residences by MCCSS, while the person is visiting their home. That means following the current restrictions placed upon us by MCCSS ([Enhanced Precautions](#)), the restrictions placed upon our entire communities ([Orange-Restrict](#)), as well as the [rules and guidelines for visits](#), created in consultation with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. For example, while visiting the family home, the person supported shouldn't be visiting with non-household members. They also shouldn't be going to other people's homes, or having any indoor visits. They also shouldn't be going to a restaurant, shopping, or other recreational activities outside of the family home.

Please note that Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health is encouraging people to only celebrate the holidays with those who are within their household.

If at any time, you have questions about what restrictions are in place, please connect with the residence.

We know that this is incredibly difficult. We're collectively tired from the restrictions, and from the fear of becoming ill. However, while positive COVID-19 cases surge around us, your continued efforts and diligence, and working together with each other, can maintain the good health of your families, the people we support, our staff, and our community.

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