

18 February 2021

Dear people we support and families,

These continue to be challenging times, with shifting expectations. Thank you for being patience throughout this pandemic. Your understanding, and your continued efforts to maintain the good health of your family makes a world of difference.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health moved back into Red-Control, of the [COVID-19 Response Framework](#). A two-page summary of the different Response Frameworks can be found [online here](#).

Below, we are highlighting some key areas of Red – Control:

### Close contact, gatherings and events

- Limit close contact to your household (the people you live with).
- Individuals who live alone, including seniors, may consider having exclusive, close contact with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation.
- Maintain two metres of physical distancing from everyone else.
- Virtual gatherings or events are the safest way to visit or recognize occasions with people outside your household.
- Adhere to provincial and applicable local restrictions on public and private gatherings.

### In Red – control:

- Trips outside of the home should only be for essential reasons (work, school, groceries/pharmacy, health care, assisting vulnerable individuals or exercise and physical activity).
- Families should not visit any other household or allow visitors in their homes – people who live alone can gather with one household.
- Everyone should avoid social gatherings.
- Work remotely, where possible.

### Organized public events, social gatherings, and religious services, rites and ceremonies:

- Limits all organized public events and social gatherings, where physical distancing can be maintained to:
  - 5 people indoors
  - 25 people outdoors
- Weddings, funerals, and other religious services, rites and ceremonies, can have up to 30% indoor capacity, or 100 people outdoors.

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has issued [Visitor Guidelines 3.0 for Congregate Settings](#). MCCSS's Enhanced Precautions guidelines align with Public Health's Red and Orange zone.

At present, the following restrictions are in place for people living in CLGW residences because of Enhanced Precautions:

- Short-Stay and Essential Overnight Absences are only permitted if it promotes the mental health and wellbeing of the person.
  - As a reminder, these absences must be pre-approved by the Supervisor or Manager and must follow CLGW's current guidelines for Short Stay and Essential Overnight Visits, shared on December 18th, and at the end of this letter.
- Health and wellbeing activities (doctor's appointments, work, school, etc.) are permitted.
- Activities, like going for a walk or a drive, that promote the mental health and wellbeing of the person are permitted.
- Organized recreational activities, like going to a restaurant, going to the bank, going for a haircut or other non-essential personal care, going bowling or to a movie theatre, are suspended.
- Attending community Day Supports (Torchlight, GrandAbilities, Community of Hearts, Live and Learn, etc.) is permitted when the maximum group size (including support staff) is 5 people.
- Essential Visitors are permitted for indoor and outdoor visits.
- Non-essential Visitors are permitted for outdoor visits only, while supervised and physically distanced.

As a reminder, if you are visiting a CLGW residence as an Essential Visitor, you are required to wear a surgical/procedural mask, **and eye protection** (goggles or face shield) while visiting the residence. While wearing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, you are also expected to maintain 6 feet (2m) of physical distance whenever possible. If you are providing personal care, there are additional PPE requirements that the Supervisor for your residence can explain when scheduling your visit.

As we learn new information, we will be sure to keep you informed.

Regards,



**Cindy Kinnon**  
Executive Director

## Short Stay and Essential Overnight Visits

These guidelines are adapted and modified based on current MCCSS Congregate Settings COVID-19 Protocols and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health COVID-19 framework.

The below guidelines are based on Red – Control, and MCCSS's guidelines as of February 17, 2020.

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 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 (work, volunteering, school, medical appointments or exercise).
  - b. Right now, recreational activities outside of the residence are suspended. This applies when visiting the family home too. Examples of recreational activities include: going to a restaurant or for coffee, visiting someone else's home, going bowling or to a movie theatre, going to the bank or getting a haircut or other non-essential personal care activities.
4. The person supported must not be visiting with any non-household members.
5. The number of people in the family home must be 5 or less.
6. The short stay or overnight essential visit must be pre-approved by the Supervisor or Manager.
7. People we support and their families are expected to follow the guidelines outlined in SA38 Visitor Guidelines., available here: <https://clgw.ca/sa38>
8. 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.
9. 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.