



April 25th, 2023

RE: Updated COVID Guidelines

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am pleased to inform you that effective immediately we will be relaxing some of the COVID guidelines and restrictions as per the Ministry of Children Community and Social Services guidance.

The updates to COVID guidance and direction are as follows:

- Removal of active screening of staff, students, volunteers, essential visitors, people supported and general visitors as well as residents returning from a short-stay or overnight absence.
- **Medical masking continues to be required indoors at all Meta locations.** Masking when **outdoors is not** required for people supported, staff, caregivers, and visitors **unless within close proximity to others.**
- No longer is physical distancing required.
- Rapid Antigen Testing will no longer be required to regularly screen staff, people supported, and visitors.

As you are aware COVID continues to fluctuate in our communities. Many of the individuals that Meta supports have health issues and therefore are at an increased risk for severe illness or death if exposed to COVID. All visitors are required to **self-assess** for symptoms of COVID-19 and other respiratory or infectious diseases upon entry to any of our (home or day program) locations.

General visitors who test positive for COVID-19 and/or have symptoms compatible with COVID-19 should not visit Meta Centre group homes or Day Programs for 10 days following symptom onset and/or positive test date (whichever is earlier/applicable) as per Public Health's provincial guidelines for high-risk settings.

General visitors should also postpone non-essential visits to the people we support that live in our group homes who are symptomatic and/or self-isolating, or when the group home is in outbreak.

For families/caregivers dropping off and picking up their loved ones at the day programs we encourage drop offs/pick-ups to happen outside or at the entrances of the buildings to reduce the number of people going in and out of the buildings. This aids to increase security and safety of the programs and minimizes distractions associated with multiple people being in the buildings/classrooms.

For families/caregivers/friends visiting our group home locations, please refer to the attached updated "Visitation Protocols."

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Regards,

Carla Torbidone

Meta Centre
Director of Operations