



MEMORANDUM

To: All Employees of OPTIONS NORTHWEST

From: Anna-Marie Eckensweiler and Tony DeAgazio, on behalf of the Pandemic Team

Date: March 29, 2021(#12)

Re:

1. Outbreak at Syndicate declared over March 27th
2. Vaccine clinic for people supported; a big success!!
3. Grey Zone continues for Thunder Bay
4. Continued precautions even with Vaccination
5. Vaccine Receipts for Employees

Good day all

It has been an extremely busy few weeks and we want to update you on a few of these developments.

1. With immense gratitude to the employees at Syndicate in their diligence with PPE use and mitigating risk, no other employees or people supported had symptoms or tested positive. The Public health unit officially declared the Syndicate site outbreak over on Saturday March 27th. Thanks to Sherry and Vanessa, and many others who pitched in to ensure everything was in place during the outbreak status. The Public health unit commended OPTIONS on their protocols and safeguards that have been in place. We thank everyone for their efforts over the last 14 days but also appreciate everyone's efforts each and every day.....it does make a difference.
2. On Friday March 26th, OPTIONS hosted a COVID-19 Vaccine clinic for people supported by our agency. It was an emotional day to see that this day had finally come. The coordination of such an event had "many hands helping" to ensure its success. From employees in the homes getting people dressed and ready, transportation details to organize and then actually orchestrate, collection of consents, data entry into the spreadsheets required for Public health, working with EMS on schedules, working at the clinic the day of the event, ensuring protocols followed at the clinic, finding a community Centre to host and the list goes on. We are extremely pleased with our advocacy efforts and that this got accomplished last week. We are grateful to many employees/supervisors/pandemic and management personnel who did what they needed to do to get the job done. Great teamwork everyone. More details on the 2nd vaccine will come out once we get more information on it.

3. Thunder Bay continues to remain in the Grey Zone. While a few more things have opened up like hair salons in April, our recommendation is to continue to keep people we support close to home. The opening of stores even with minimal capacity are still areas of concern for people who are vulnerable. We have attached information on the Grey Zone in our Service Update.
4. With the excitement of employees and people supported of OPTIONS getting vaccinated there may be some thought that we can relax some of our practices. The science tells us that this is not true just yet. Masking, washing of hands, wearing of eye protection, social distancing, and staying home are all still required to mitigate risk. The hope is that once more people are vaccinated fully and the numbers in the province truly gets under control, we will eventually see some of our restrictions being lessened but for now, it is status quo.
5. We have been advised by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit that we need to keep a record of each employee's vaccine receipt. We had originally asked that you forward Suzanne Fiorito the receipt of completed vaccine, but now we require the receipt of each dose of the vaccine. Please forward Suzanne the receipt of your first dose of the vaccine if you haven't done so already, and then following your second dose forward that receipt as well. These documents will be kept in your employee health file.

We are appreciative of your efforts at work and at home. We have seen it make a difference. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to your supervisor or any member of the Pandemic or management teams.

Thank You !!