



MEMORANDUM

To: All Employees of OPTIONS NORTHWEST

From: Anna-Marie Eckensweiler, Executive Director

Date: June 11, 2020

Re: Screening for Outdoor visits for family members/friends with individuals supported at residential locations and further re-opening of the province.
Please place in COVID-19 binders.

Hi all

Hope you are getting to enjoy some of the sunshine that has been bestowed on us. I know the warmer temperatures (although today is a little deceiving) help to deal with the cabin fever most of us are feeling since we started to stay out of the public in March. On behalf of the Pandemic Team, I wanted to bring some new information to your attention. Premier Ford announced this week that more businesses and services will re-open on June 12th as part of his staged planning to open up the province from the COVID restrictions. While messaging this, he has continued to maintain all of the emergency orders as they relate to our sector. This means that while the province is starting to see openings of restaurants that offer patio seating and some beach access in Ontario parks etc., Premier Ford has messaged that single employer status and other emergency orders will remain in effect.

We know there is some anxiousness to get back to “normal” but the new normal will not look the same especially for the individuals we support who have under-lying medical conditions and who are more vulnerable. Until there is a relaxing of the emergency orders, we continue to recommend only going into public places when it is deemed essential for appointments. Those who are most vulnerable (who cannot safely wear a mask) for certain should only be venturing out to public places if the appointment is absolutely essential and where social distancing can be maintained. While this “lock down” seems like a long time, we know it has been working as we have not had any confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our organization. We strongly believe that maintaining these stricter guidelines for the ONW locations will continue to mitigate the risk of the spread of the virus.

Visits from family/friends can continue via technology or phones and in person visits can **only be done via social distancing out in the yard or on the patio**. We also know that this has been difficult on some who have regular contact with their families. There is an expectation on us from the Ministry guidelines that we do active screening with **all** visitors to the homes even if they don't enter the premises. We are responsible for tracking visitors and the location of the visits in the event of a positive case. If you believe that an in person social distancing visit will result in physical contact between the parties, (unexpected hugging) please ensure the Level 1 masks are provided to the family member and the individual or encourage the family member to bring their own mask. We are asking that you provide to the family member the clipboard with the blue coloured Outdoor Personal Visitors screening tool to be completed prior to the visit. Please greet the family member at the door to provide this information even though they are not visiting in the home; we still require this information be completed. The clipboards and screening sheets are being

provided so that the individuals visiting can complete the information without having to enter the premises. These sheets should be turned into the office with the other screening sheets. The clipboards will be delivered to each of the homes shortly with the forms. Messaging will also go out to families from Mark Beazley. **These new screening forms are on blue coloured paper to differentiate them from the regular screening sheets for all other visitors and employees who actually are entering the home.**

We have received some feedback that we are sending too much paper to the homes. Unfortunately, there is a lot to communicate and it is essential that we provide the latest information to you when it comes out. At times, information is faxed first as it is time sensitive however, you will always receive the hard copy for the COVID-19 binders. The faxes can be discarded once the hard copies are received. Screening forms are a requirement of public health in the event of a positive case..... we see no other way to continue to keep you updated without providing this information out to you.

As always if you have any questions regarding the information provided please speak to your immediate supervisor or another member of the management team. We are grateful for your ongoing support of OPTIONS NORTHWEST and the people supported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Eckensweiler', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anna-Marie Eckensweiler
On behalf of the Pandemic Team