



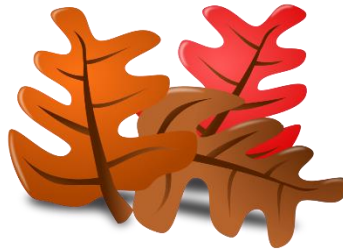
MEMORANDUM

To: All Employees of OPTIONS NORTHWEST

From: Anna-Marie Eckensweiler, Executive Director on behalf of the Pandemic Team

Date: October 5, 2020

Re: Happy Thanksgiving weekend.
Please put in COVID-19 binders



Happy Thanksgiving to all of you and your families.

On behalf of the Pandemic Team we wanted to extend our sincere thanks to all of you for your continued efforts in your roles with OPTIONS NORTHWEST. Each of you plays a key part in helping our agency provide supports and services to our community. This is a monumental task in ordinary times but as you know, we aren't working in ordinary times anymore. We hope you get to spend some quality time with loved ones over the Thanksgiving weekend and stay well while doing so.

As you are likely aware, Ontario's numbers of positive cases have increased, and Premier Ford has recommended people go back to limiting the number of people in our circles. Our committee reviewed all of the directives and recommendations currently in place and have decided to leave visits with family and the individuals we support unchanged at this time. Thunder Bay's numbers have not seen a huge increase therefore, we are still following the Ministry's directives to allow visits with family but have asked supervisors to speak with families to remind them of the need for masks, good hand hygiene and sanitation, social distancing where possible and not exposing their loved ones to any further risks. We are also asking families to consider who may be visiting from out of town, to consider the risk that may pose to individuals we support.

While there is no directive for travel out of Thunder Bay, there are strong recommendations that everyone should consider NOT travelling beyond Northern Ontario. Mitigating risk for the virus

is everyone's responsibility and following all of the recommendations to keep ourselves safe has been successful to date. The landscape may change though and often it changes quickly.

We will continue to monitor our local area as directed by our Ministry and continue to remind families, our employees and those we support of the importance of doing what they can to mitigate the risk.

Keep up the great work and we are "thankful" for all of you.

