

COVID-19

May 14, 2020

With isolating, distancing, foregoing the hugs and proximity of loved ones, it is sometimes difficult to remember the positives in the middle of a pandemic. The positives, in my mind are increased occurrences of understanding, compassion, patience and kindness. It seems that troubled times can bring out the best in most of us. Not always, but mostly. This is a good thing.

Another positive is that due to a lot of hard work on the part of our staff members and perhaps a bit of luck, we have not had anyone test positive for COVID-19. Thank you to all of you who have been so vigilant.

PPE's

Our 72-hour kits have been sent out and they should only be used in the event of an outbreak at your program. If you are not sure where yours is, or what is included, speak with your manager.

The cloth masks that we acquired will be sent out next week. There will be one mask for every staff member to keep, wash and reuse.

WHAT TO EXPECT

TCS will 'open up' according to the direction of our Provincial Health Office, Dr. Bonnie Henry and the Province of BC. To be clear, we are only at the planning stage; we are not, at present, easing any restrictions or safeguards.

When the time is right, and in consultation with the Directors, TCS will relax some restrictions according to specific plans for each program. Our managers will submit their program plan to their Director for approval and in turn, the plans will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

In addition to the plans, all staff members and visitors will be screened prior to the start of every shift and before entering the program. This may include taking the temperature of people prior to entering our sites.

In my letter of May 7th, I outlined some of the Ministry of Health recommendations that we will be following. Caregivers, including families and Home Share Providers, will need to be assured that their loved ones will be safe. Every decision will be made to ensure that the individuals that we support and our staff members will be safe. Step by step, and in accordance with safeguards and precautionary measures, we cautiously edge towards the world that we knew before COVID-19. I believe that it will be a long time returning to that world but every small step takes us in the right direction.

VIGILANCE

As the Province begins to open up and services begin to open, we will need to remain vigilant in continuing to practice the four most important safeguards.

1. Keeping your distance. Always leave 2 meters between yourself and others;
2. Washing your hands with soap frequently for at least 20 seconds. Hot water is not required;
3. Coughing or sneezing into the crook of your arms or into a tissue and then safely discarding it; and,
4. Increasing our cleaning regime.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions for Kristine or me, please send them to COVIDQuestions@tcsinfo.ca and we will do our best to answer them.

RECOGNITION

I repeat myself when I say that I believe that the guidance that we are receiving from Dr. Bonnie Henry and Health Minister Adrian Dix is exceptional. Because of them, BC has an excellent track record in responding to the pandemic.

This has not been a short journey, nor is it over. I am very grateful to all of you who continue to remain diligent in protecting those that we support and each other. Everyone has a part to play in our response to COVID-19. Thank you for doing your part and for all that you do.

Remember to reach out and connect with others, to stay strong and to please stay safe.

Bob Cornish, CEO