

COVID-19

April 16, 2020

I hope that everyone had a wonderful long weekend and found ways to adhere to the rules of these times while still finding opportunities to reach out to stay connected to family and friends. It has been one month since a state of emergency was declared and unfortunately there is no end in sight. We are cautioned to keep two meters from one another as we are told to maintain social distance. I do not like the phrase 'social distancing' because it implies that we must be socially disconnected from each other and this is precisely the time that we need to reach out, to be more social and to support each other. Let's maintain our **physical distance** but not be socially distant. I hope that we can honestly say that at TCS we don't separate in the name of fear, but we separate in the name of compassion and common sense.

UPDATE

At the beginning of each week we take a count of the individuals that we support who are symptomatic or have tested positive. We have had a very good week. As of Tuesday, April 14th, we have not had any individuals test positive for COVID-19.

We have had staff members test positive and our thoughts are with them and their families as they self-isolate. We wish them a speedy and healthy recovery.

CONTINGENCIES

Our pandemic plan is a living document which will continue to change and evolve as our knowledge of the COVID-19 virus grows and evolves. I sent out a revised Response Plan earlier this week. Please let me know if you have questions or ideas regarding it.

We will continue to look at all measures to safeguard our staff members, our families and the individuals that we support.

PPE'S

I would like to thank our Procurement Task Force and everyone who had a part in helping us to acquire Personal Protective Equipment. They have done an amazingly job. If all of our orders are fulfilled, we will have a sufficient supply of PPE's for the medium term. In addition, we have a number of good-hearted people sewing cloth masks for us. I have ordered an additional 1,000 cloth mask and we will be distributing these masks to our staff members. They are not meant to supplant the surgical masks or the N95 masks but will hopefully add another level of safeguard.

The distribution of PPE's will begin this week and should be completed next week.

My heartfelt thanks to all of the Task Force members who have worked hard to keep us all safe.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

Again, I am including a comprehensive list of Provincial and Federal supports that are available as a result of COVID-19. I know that there are some in our community who are struggling to keep up with their financial obligations during this time and hopefully this may be helpful.

[Emergency Financial Supports Summary Apr 14 2020](#)

VIGILANCE – A Twice Repeated Reminder

We cannot state too often that safeguards work. In order to beat this pandemic, we must remain vigilant and not let our guard down. Even if the curve begins to subside, we must 'double down' until the virus is eradicated. We do this to protect the individuals whom we support and to protect our family, friends and ourselves. The four most important safeguards are:

1. Keeping your distance. 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 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 attempt to answer them.

FRONT LINE RECOGNITION

For all of you who are working directly or indirectly to support our individuals or who are working to support those who support individuals. I salute you. Without you, there would be no TCS; without you, lives would be lost. Our tag line is that *we enhance each day for each individual*, and that has never been truer than now. It is your compassion and commitment that are making the difference each day for each individual.

Thank you for all that you do.

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

Bob Cornish, CEO