

July 16, 2020

## **Re: Confirmed case of COVID-19 at Community Living Hamilton**

On behalf of Community Living Hamilton, I want to make you aware that we have One (1) employee at our Mountain group living residence who has tested positive for COVID-19. We have notified Hamilton Public Health and they are providing guidance on how to handle the situation.

Public Health has informed us that, as a result of the Universal Precautions we had already been following, this is considered a “casual contact” situation and that the exposure risk to other employees and clients is extremely low.

The employee who tested positive is now quarantining at home and all other employees who worked with this employee have been instructed to seek out testing as soon as possible. Through Hamilton Public Health we also arranged for on-site testing of all residents.

Until all test results have been received and a full 14 days have passed without anyone else showing symptoms or testing positive, we will be taking all available measures to ensure the health and safety of our employees and the people we support. While Hamilton Public Health has indicated that exposure risk is low and only minor additional precautions are needed, we are opting to be extra cautious. Please see below for a list of the additional measures we have put in place while we wait for the test results:

- **Full PPE** – Employees at this site will now be required to wear full Personal Protective Equipment, including face mask, gloves, gown and goggles for the entirety of their shifts.
- **Isolating Residents** – All clients at the home will be isolated and encouraged to wear a face mask where possible.
- **Additional Cleaning and Disinfecting** – Employees have been instructed to increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting at the site, specifically surfaces and high-touch areas.

In the event that any of the supported individuals or employees at this home test positive for COVID-19, we have comprehensive quarantine plan that will take effect.

Thanks to our previously implemented precautions, including limiting movement of staff between sites, we do not anticipate there will be impact at any of our other homes.

As this is an evolving situation, we are working very closely with Public Health to ensure that we are following their most recent directives to protect the health, safety, and the wellbeing of our employees and the individuals we support. We have sufficient supply of PPE for employees and people supported at this home and are working with each staff member to address specific

concerns. Staff working at this site will not be permitted to work at any of our other residences. We are also supporting staff in taking all necessary precautions to protect themselves and their families while providing essential services to the people we support.

We are also working with each employee to completing the required “line tracing” process, to identify all people with whom they, and the people they support, have been in recent contact with.

### **Impact to Other Agencies**

We do not anticipate any impact to other local or regional agencies. All employees of Community Living Hamilton were previously asked to select a single employer that they will work with exclusively until the end of the pandemic. This measure went into enforcement on April 6, 2020 and, as of that date, none of our active staff have worked for any other agency.

Updates to this situation will be posted on our website at <https://communitylivinghamilton.com/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/>.

Sincerely,

Sylvia D'Intino  
Executive Director