



## **The Participation House Project (Durham Region)**

January 17, 2022

Dear family member,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Participation House Project (Durham Region), in order to share updated information regarding the visitor practices we have implemented at all of our residential service locations in recent weeks and as part of our ongoing efforts to maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of your loved one and the employees who support them.

Given the highly contagious nature of the Omicron COVID-19 variant we are asking all families to be aware that at this time and until further notice, only essential visitors will be able to visit PH operated residential settings; at no time should there be more than 1 essential visitor in a home at any given time.

The Ministry of Children Communities and Social Services (MCCSS) defines “**Essential visitors**” as those who provide essential support to the ongoing operation of a congregate living setting and/or are considered necessary to maintain the health, wellness, and safety, or any applicable legal rights, of a congregate living resident. MCCSS recognizes a parent/guardian, or other family members as essential visitors. An essential visitor may also include social service workers and health care providers or other person(s) recognized as meeting the criteria above.

Additionally, as part of our enhanced safety measures we are mandating that all essential visitors:

- Pre-schedule their visits to location to minimize and maintain reasonable numbers to facilitate social distancing at locations.
- We will require you to share proof of full-vaccination status (2 vaccinations- minimum 3<sup>rd</sup> booster preferred)
- Read, complete and sign off of the location visitor log
- Read and sign off on the visitor attestation form which outlines in expectations of the visit and associated risks of visiting during these times
- Complete and pass a Rapid Antigen Test
- Complete and pass the COVID Visitor Screening questionnaire
- Wear the provided personal protective equipment for the entirety of the visit, which includes:
  - ✓ Medical grade face mask or non-fitted N95 respirator mask
  - ✓ Eye Protection in the form of a face shield or approved goggles
  - ✓ Disposable Blue Gown
- Adhere to handwashing/sanitizing, social distancing, and respiratory etiquette.



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During periods of self-isolation for people receiving service or times of outbreak at settings, we ask that essential visitors contact the Location Service Manager for further direction before scheduling or completing a visit.

We continue to support families who wish to have their loved one visit at their home and stay overnight with provisions and understanding that upon return to the service location the person receiving support services will then be required to:

- Participate in and Pass the PH COVID Screening Questionnaire
- Participate in Rapid Antigen Testing on Day 1 and 4 of their return.
- Self-isolate within their unit for a period of 72hrs (there will be limited access to common/shared spaces in the home, meals will be staggered such that they will eat alone and mask wearing will be required during all interactions).

While we realize that this may cause an inconvenience for some, it is our hope that you can appreciate that these practices help us minimize risk and contain the virus spread while ensuring that everyone has continued access to their loved ones and necessary supports.

Should you have further questions/concerns with respect to these processes, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at [sannedmunds@phdurham.com](mailto:sannedmunds@phdurham.com) or by phone at 905 579-5270 ex. 225.

I would like to take this time to thank each of you for doing your part to help keep our communities safe as we navigate the challenges of this new year.

Be safe and stay well.

Sincerely,

Sharri-Ann Edmunds, Director of Services/Operations  
CC: Tracy McGarry, Director of Quality Assurance & Community Development

