

COMMUNIQUE #10

TO: All Staff	RE: COVID-19 Update
FROM: Emergency Preparedness Leadership Team	DATE: April 9, 2020

WORKING TOGETHER

As in many crisis situations people in small communities rally together in order to lend a hand to those in need. This pandemic has led to many Facebook groups entitled Caremongers; whereby group members reach out to one another to offer help and to lean on one another during these uncertain times. This is also true within the developmental service sector in Lanark County and in particular those of us who provide residential supports (Carebridge, CLA and Tayside). It is very heartwarming.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Plans continue to evolve as we discuss how best to respond and move from preparedness, to containment (self isolation) to actively dealing with an outbreak. These plans as you can imagine are fluid, based on the newest research and advice being provided by experts in the medical field. Trust that the plans are in place (and is being updated as new guidance is provided) and that if (and let's hope not) we need to activate an emergency outbreak plan it will be expedient and ensures the safety of the Individuals we all support and staff.

COVID-19 PROVINCIAL TESTING GUIDANCE

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve and laboratory testing capacity has increased, Ontario's provincial testing guidance is also being updated. It is expected that this guidance will be consistently applied across all regions in Ontario. Additional guidance is expected to be provided in the coming days to further increase the testing of Ontarians. There are four updates to the guidance provided in this document (please see attached document):



- Hospital inpatients and residents living in long-term care homes and retirement homes
- Health care workers/caregivers/care providers/first responders
- Remote/Isolated/Rural/Indigenous communities
- Priorities in situations of resource shortages

QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS/CONCERNS

Open dialogue is very important during these times, and we ask that you continue to share your thoughts/questions/suggestions/concerns with us. Managers are here to listen so please reach out to us!



KRISTEN'S KORNER



Hi everyone, I am so happy to be back to work and out of isolation. I have been adjusting to the new world, and as an avid hugger, I have a lot to learn (just ask my co-workers). I have been working really hard to learn all the new technological platforms for Virtual engagement and interaction. I am quickly learning that I am a bit behind the times. Lol.

I have spent this week connecting with some of the people that we work for, this has been achieved through a variety of ways. I have been video conferencing, doing calls and facilitating group chats with people that have been isolated through these past weeks.

I have started a private Facebook Group for the people that we work for and staff called "CLA Talk and Learn" Each morning I upload a good morning message to everyone. I am always looking for Good News Stories and inspirational/funny thoughts, memes, Gifs or pictures. Please feel free to add any items that you think fit those categories.

I have been collaborating with LCSS and Extend-A-Family to work on setting up some virtual programs through Zoom to engage people in education, peer to peer interaction, and gaming platforms. We are also working to set up Virtual orientations for all homes to assist with training of staff as needed in the homes.

I will be doing a Zoom training session online to assist me with the use of the Zoom program to set up these virtual programs. My hope will be to start to set up our first session next week that will be centered around social engagement and mental health education. I will post the meeting time and info on the new Facebook page “CLA Talk and Learn Group”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/clatalkandlearn>

GRUB HUB



Estimates suggest that we have cooked/baked/packaged and distributed approximately **2000 meals** over the past month (SIL and more recently group homes). Kudos to the team for their culinary expertise!

EASTER WEEKEND

Many municipalities across Canada have deemed the Easter Bunny to be an essential service! Here’s “hopping” he makes it to your place this weekend! To those of you who will be working this weekend – we thank you for sharing your Easter with the Individuals we support!

