

PATHWAYS ABILITIES SOCIETY

POLICY: COVID 19 PANDEMIC PREVENTION AT SERVICE SITES

Applies to: All Personnel, Volunteers, Persons Served, Families, Advocates and Caregivers

PREAMBLE

COVID-19: An infectious disease caused by a newly discovered type of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness (World Health Organization).

Self-Isolation: Self-isolation means staying home and avoiding situations where you could come in contact with others (HealthLinkBC).

Social-Distancing (physical distancing): Limiting close contact with others. When outside of your home, keep two meters (six feet) away from other people (BC Centre for Disease Control).

Sanitize: Disinfecting surfaces and hands.

POLICY

Individuals receiving non-residential services are not permitted to attend services if they are sick or have COVID 19 symptoms (fever, dry cough, lethargy, sneezing, sore throat, headache, loss of taste, loss of smell, difficulty breathing and shortness of breath).

Staff and volunteers are not permitted to work, volunteer if they are sick or have COVID-19 symptoms.

If staff, volunteers, individuals receiving service have COVID-19 symptoms, they must be tested as soon as possible.

If staff, volunteers, individuals receiving service come into close contact with someone who is being COVID-19 tested, they are not permitted to attend a Pathways service site until negative results are provided.

If staff, volunteers, individuals receiving service come into contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate for 14 days. The 14-day isolation period starts once Pathways has been notified.

Reinforcing, applying social or physical distancing, and universal precautions is paramount to preventing the spread of diseases and directs service provision.

Everyone who is able to must wear a mask. One reusable mask is provided to each person receiving services and staff. People enter sites maintaining social distance practices. A limited number of people enter a building at the same time.

Employees transporting individuals in vehicles must wear masks. People receiving services who are able to wear a mask when being transported must wear a mask.

Individuals who are able to and refuse to wear a mask and/or practice social distancing, who need to be told on more than 3 occasions in one week, will have their services suspended for 5 days.

Employees who refuse to wear a mask and or practice social distancing will be disciplined as outlined in the Pathways Discipline policy and procedure.

Staff and individuals entering service sites must have their temperatures taken and immediately wash their hands. Anyone with an above normal temperature (above 38°C or 100.4°F) is segregated and must go home.

Hands must be washed throughout the day especially before and after eating, using the bathroom and before and after supporting someone with personal care.

Surfaces are continually sanitized daily.

All interior doors that are able to remain open, remain open.

Unnecessary visitors are not permitted to enter the building.

Food and beverages will not be provided. Individuals and staff must bring their own drinks. Food containers will not be rinsed prior to being sent home.

Staff and individuals are strongly encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer.

Activities and community participation will be limited to activities that minimize social and physical contact.

An Exposure Control Plan for SARS-CoV-2 is developed and adhered to.

Worksite Inspections are completed before individuals return to work or volunteer placements.

Individuals living at Bouvette or Old Meadows who leave the home without staff support must immediately shower and have the clothes they wore laundered, upon returning.

This policy and the procedure will be reviewed every three months, with the intent to modify to the current guidelines identified by the federal and provincial governments and potentially eliminate.

Effective/Revision Date

May 4, 2020
June 24, 2020
August 20, 2020
October 19, 2020

Board Approval

Date Approved

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June 24, 2020
August 20, 2020
October 19, 2020