

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Re: Family Outdoor Visit Protocol

To all families and Members,

Vita Community Living Services is pleased to announce that effective **August 1, 2020**, outdoor family visits will begin. For many of our members, maintaining family visits are necessary for their wellbeing.

However, to ensure the health, wellness, and safety of all our members, VITA has implemented **several protocols** to facilitate these visits. These protocols are based on the regulations set forth by **Public Health Ontario** and the **Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS)**.

Henceforth, all visitors coming to any VITA home **must get** an approval from the Residential Supervisor. The Supervisor will connect with the visitor to complete a **two-part** verbal assessment. The **first assessment** is a COVID-19 pre-screening questionnaire which will ask standard questions about symptoms, travel, etc. The **second part** is a review of the “**expectations**” everyone must follow to ensure successful and safe visits.

These expectations include:

- Maintaining social distancing at **ALL TIMES** with staff and or members.
- Following all disinfecting and sanitization protocols.
- Visitors will be required to **sign in**, use hand sanitizer and complete VITA’s onsite **COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire** which includes a temperature check.
- Visitors, staff and when possible members, are required to wear **VITA issued masks** for the entire duration of the visit/entire time you are on the premises.
- A designated **visiting** area will be identified and will indicate social distancing requirements (where the visitor, the member and staff are to stay).

- Staff are required to **supervise** the entire visit. Staff will do their best to be discrete and provide **as much privacy** as they can within the outdoor designated space.
- Visitors **must stay** in the outdoor designated visiting area. For safety reasons, you will **not** be able to enter the home. Please ensure you use the washroom prior to your arrival.
- Visits will be scheduled for **one** member at a time for a maximum of **60 minutes**. To ensure all members have opportunity to meet with loved ones, each visitor is asked to schedule **one visit per week**.
- Requests for visits are to be made at least **48 hours** prior to the visit.

Please be aware that if the COVID-19 assessment questionnaire is **unsuccessful** or the rules are not maintained, the visit can be cancelled and/or postponed. Visits will **not** take place at homes that are experiencing a **COVID-19 Outbreak** or a Respiratory Outbreak.

VITA continues to work closely with Families, Public Health and MCCSS to ensure that our members are happy, safe, and healthy. Together we can help fight COVID-19.

Pease contact your Residential Supervisor for more information, or if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith
Executive Director
Vita Community Living Services and Mens Sana Families for Mental Health