

Friday, January 15, 2021

Re: Emergency Order

Dear Member, Family and Visitor,

In response to an alarming increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases over the past two (2) weeks and the threat of the collapse of the Province's health care system the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, has declared a second provincial state of emergency as of Thursday, January 14, 2021, 12:01 a.m.

The government has issued a stay-at-home order for at least 28 days requiring everyone to remain at home with exceptions for essential service workers and for the essential purposes like shopping for food, medical appointments, and exercise.

For Vita Community Living Services, the safety and well-being of our members, staff and their families is paramount. We are mandated to provide safety to all those who work and live in VITA residencies, henceforth, as a result of the 'State of Emergency' order, VITA continues to keep all "in person" visits on hold for the next 28 days. This is effective at all VITA locations.

Moreover, we want to share that we are well prepared, and all our residences have provisions in place to maintain the regulations set forth by the Public Health Ontario and other relevant government bodies (LHINs and Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services). VITA has implemented many protocols to minimize public exposure and increase safety of our members, staff and the families. VITA will continue to support members accessing essential services as required, i.e., medical appointments.

VITA's Infection Prevention and Control team (IPAC) has been closely monitoring transmission rates, both within VITA and within our local communities, and we will continue to ensure that our preparedness matches the ever-changing situation in the best interests of our members and staff.

We understand the challenges these safety directives pose for you, and we encourage you to adhere to the restrictions put in place by our provincial government. Please contact programs supervisors and discuss with them options for virtual visits with your loved one. Our staff will help you to have a successful virtual visit.

VITA continues to work closely with the Families, Public Health, and other government bodies to ensure our members are safe and healthy. Only together can we reduce the spread of COVID-19.

If you have any questions, please contact the Program Supervisor for the home your family member lives in.

As always, thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



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