Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
CENTRAL REGION

Ministère des Services à l'enfance et des Services sociaux et communautaires
RÉGION DU CENTRE

Ontario

September 3, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: MCCSS-funded Transfer Payment Recipients (TPRs) that provide Services and Supports in Congregate Living Settings

FROM: Ann-Carol Hargreaves
A/Regional Director

RE: **MCCSS Visitor's Guidelines 2.0: Re-Opening of Congregate Living Settings**

As part of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services' continued efforts to safeguard the rights and health of people living in congregate living settings, MCCSS is issuing the *Visitor's Guidelines 2.0: Re-Opening of Congregate Living Settings*. These guidelines will come into effect on September 9, 2020.

This guideline combines the previous *Visitor's Guidelines: Re-Opening of Congregate Living Settings* which came into effect on July 22, 2020, the recent *MCCSS Re-Opening of Congregate Living Settings: Short Stay Absences and Outings and Essential Overnight Absences* , issued on August 28, 2020, and provides updated direction on the following:

- Essential, Non-Essential and Designated Visitors

Please note that the information in Section D. Requirements for Short Stay Absences and Section E. Essential Overnight Absences is also contained in *MCCSS Re-Opening of Congregate Living Settings: Short Stay Absences and Outings and Essential Overnight Absences.*

MCCSS thanks you for continuing to safeguard the health and safety of residents and staff through rigorous hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, active symptom screening, source control (wearing a non-medical mask or face covering) and the use of physical distancing measures.

As with all other previously issued guidelines, this guideline must be applied in a way that is consistent with the MCCSS guiding principles of safety, emotional well-being, equitable access and flexibility.

Please refer to the Appendix: Important Resources, for previously issued congregate living settings guidelines.

MCCSS will monitor the implementation of these changes and re-evaluate the guideline as necessary.

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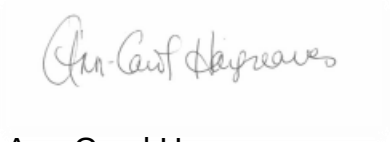
Important note for TPRs providing youth justice congregate care services. The Ministry's Youth Justice Division continues to work with key stakeholders on operational guidance with respect to the safety, security and confidentiality of the youth we serve, their families, and employees with a goal of resuming in-person visits. Communication will be distributed to all TPRs providing open and secure youth justice services once in-person visits can resume.

If you have any questions, please contact your MCCSS Program Supervisor.

Be well,



Ann-Carol Hargreaves
A/Regional Director

Appendix:
Important Resources

April 23, 2020, COVID-19 Action Plan for Vulnerable People. The Action Plan included an action to limit non- essential visitors in congregate living settings, as an important measure to reduce exposure and stop the spread of COVID-19.

May 28, 2020, Ministry of Health *COVID-19 Guidance: Congregate Living for Vulnerable Populations* was issued and provided further recommendations that congregate living settings develop policies that limit non-essential visitors.

June 11, 2020, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services *Re-introductions of Visits in Congregate Living Settings* was issued and provided guidance specific to MCCSS funded congregate living settings regarding requirements for outdoor visits in congregate living settings.

July 15, 2020, Ministry of Children Community and Social Services *Visitor's Guidelines: Re-Opening of Congregate Living Settings* was issued (came into effect on July 22, 2020) to revise the existing outdoor visitor policy and to support the resumption of personal/ indoor visits and essential overnight absences for residents of MCCSS funded and/or licensed congregate living settings. It expanded the visitation options available to residents, families, friends and other people who play a key role in the lives of those who live in congregate living settings by supplementing the existing policy permitting outdoor visits. *This is replaced by *Visitor's Guidelines 2.0: Re-Opening of Congregate Living Settings.*

August 28, 2020, *MCCSS Re-Opening of Congregate Living Settings: Short Stay Absences and Outings and Essential Overnight Absences* was issued to provide congregate living service providers/ agencies guidance on short stay absence, essential overnight absences and outings.