

April 20, 2021

Memorandum To: MCCSS-funded Transfer Payment Recipients in the Developmental Services, Violence Against Women, Intervenor Services and Anti-Human Trafficking sectors

From: Karen Singh
Director, Central Region

Subject: **MCCSS Reopening Act Order Renewals**

Once again, I want to acknowledge and thank you for your leadership and ongoing work supporting vulnerable people in Ontario during the COVID-19 outbreak. I sincerely thank you for the commitment, effort and feedback you continue to offer to government and the ongoing support you provide to the people who use your services and their families/caregivers.

In response to rising COVID-19 cases, on April 7, 2021 the government declared a third state of emergency and announced a number of new public health measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19, including a province-wide Stay-at-Home order. The current orders under *the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* continue to be in effect and can be extended for up to 30 days at a time.

I am writing to inform you that Ontario Regulations 121/20, 145/20, and 177/20 under *the Reopening Ontario (A flexible Response to Covid-19) Act, 2020* have been extended until May 20, 2021. These orders impact adult developmental services, intervenor services, anti-human trafficking and violence against women sectors and are an important tool to help protect the health and safety of residents and agency staff.

As the government continues to re-examine the measures in place, it is critical that all organizations continue to operationally prepare should the orders not be extended, in whole or in part, beyond May 20, 2021. Development of a transition plan for a return to fulfilling regular operational requirements is key.

It is also the ministry's continued expectation that, in unionized places of employment, agency employers continue to engage in good faith dialogue with their bargaining agents. As well, it is the ministry's expectation that all employers will consult with the joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative, if any, and consider their recommendations before developing, establishing and putting into effect any new or additional measures and procedures related to COVID-19. In some circumstances, this may be a regulatory requirement.

The health and safety of vulnerable people in Ontario and the families and staff caring for them is a priority for the ministry, and their well-being is of utmost importance. Once again, thank you for your continued work supporting vulnerable people in Ontario. We are committed to communicating with you regularly about the orders, and should you have questions, please contact your ministry program supervisor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K.S.', with a stylized flourish.

Karen Singh
Director, Central Region