

Ministry of Health

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Division

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May 28, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Mental Health and Addictions Service Providers

**FROM: Ragaven Sabaratnam
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Mental Health and Addictions Division**

**RE: COVID-19 Guidance: Congregate Living for Vulnerable
Populations**

I am writing to you in follow up to the guidance document that was shared from the ministry's Emergency Operations Centre earlier today regarding guidance for organizations in congregate living settings.

Please note that this guidance is meant as basic information and is meant to apply to a broad range of congregate living settings. Mental health and addictions service providers are expected to continue to use their clinical judgement when applying this guidance within existing organizational policies and guidelines and in consultation with public health officials.

I would also like to reiterate that, as stated in the document, in the event of any conflict between this guidance document and any applicable directives from the Chief Medical Officer, the directives prevail.

With respect to the recommendation regarding the use of non-medical masks as an additional measure for source control, where a mental health and addictions service provider is a "health care provider or health care entity" as defined in the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, the provider would be subject to Directive #1 from the Chief Medical Officer of Health regarding the use of Personal Protective Equipment. A health care provider or health care entity includes a centre, program or service for community health or mental health whose primary purpose is the provision of health care.

Please check the ministry's [Directives, Memorandums and Other Resources](#) page regularly for the most up to date directives.

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting our most vulnerable population in these challenging conditions.

Sincerely,



Ragaven Sabaratnam
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Mental Health and Addictions Division