

December 16, 2021

To the Developmental Services Sector:

After months of managing, transitioning, and modifying your service and support models, we acknowledge that you have been both responsive and responsible to community prevalence and agency status. You have created and mastered the protocols of infection control and workforce adjustments.

As our holiday festivities begin and social interactions increase, we must brace ourselves once again for this new wave. While Omicron appears to have fewer devastating symptoms, it is by far the most transmittable yet, and poses the greatest risk to our ability to ensure service continuity.

Please consider how you will navigate the potentials of significant increases in the numbers of asymptomatic positive cases and directives pertaining to quarantine/social isolation. There is a strong likelihood that enforcement of multi-day precautions with increased counts in positive cases will further exasperate your staffing challenges.

Utilizing tools and revisiting resources such as the one embedded here: [Checklist-Significant-Loss-of-Residential-Support-Staff.pdf \(communitylivingsex.org\)](#), and found on the RealXchange can provide guidance if you are struggling.

Do take this opportunity to discuss plans and prepare for the "what ifs" of service continuity and giving consideration of greater positive asymptomatic cases. We should not wait for external directives to be proactive and to protect our workforces and our workplaces.

Due to the fluidity of how things progress, you can expect further direction and/or communications soon.

Thank you, on behalf of the Provincial Network on Developmental Services

Michelle Brooks, Chair



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*Through the active participation of key Developmental Service Partners, we are able to reach the sector's key audiences who rely upon the valuable resources and supports made possible through the Province of Ontario. The Provincial Network membership includes: Community Living Ontario, Community Networks of Specialized Care of Ontario (CNSC-O), Christian Horizons, Developmental Services Ontario (DSO), Faith and Culture Inclusion Network, Great Lakes Society (GLS), Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities(OADD), Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs (OASIS), Provincial Executive Directors Group (PEDG), the Provincial Network Human Resources Committee and Toronto Developmental Services Alliance (TDSA)*

