



Hello to all of our families:

We wish to share with you our plan to continue to eliminate as much risk as possible during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We are currently free from any cases and have a very clear and well thought out preparedness plan. Please read the following so you are up to date on our plan to prevent the spread of the infection.

As you are aware, COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that can cause serious respiratory illness. This disease poses a particular threat for the people we support, many of whom are elders and/or have weakened immune systems or respiratory problems.

While the risk in Canada (Ontario) remains low we would like to be proactive in the interest of protecting the people we support and our staff from infection, New Leaf is putting in place the following interim protocols to reduce the risk:

1. Enhanced Environmental Hygiene

We have cleaning procedures in place for high touch areas, including door-knobs and handles, seatbelts, vehicle doors and driving controls, kitchen counters and eating surfaces, bathroom surfaces etc.

2. Respiratory Etiquette and Hand Hygiene:

All staff, visitors and our residents are being educated on respiratory etiquette – this means coughing or sneezing into disposable tissues (or an elbow if tissues are not readily available). All are expected to wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer provided in the workplace. **Washing hands with soap and water is preferred.**

3. Reduced Social gatherings and larger Events.

In order to eliminate some risk, New Leaf has opted to close our day program. We will only have very small groups of individuals coming to the property. Any large community-based activity has been cancelled. This includes Convention Centre type events, and large gatherings. New Leaf has a plan in place that will ensure proper nutrition and access to any needed item for our residents such as medication or specific supplies.

4. Self-Isolation

New Leaf is using a screening tool for staff and visitors for any symptoms of the illness. Symptomatic people will be asked to remain at their own homes in self isolation until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours.

5. Travel and point of entry screening

Public Health has asked those who have recently travelled from any **“hot Spot”** to **self-isolate** (e.g., stay home, do not attend childcare, school or work, avoid public spaces, contact with others, do not take public transit) for a total of 14 days after their last day in known affected area. Travelers from these areas are encouraged to call their local public health department.

6. Visitor Screening and Family Contact

Given the very serious health risks associated with COVID-19 for many of the people we support, visitors to New Leaf’s premises will be screened prior to entering New Leaf’s premises. Screening and response to risks identified through the screening tool will be as described in the attached Screening Form. Visitors will be asked to respect the health and safety of all of the people we support.

Families will be kept informed about the procedures we have implemented, visitation restrictions and programming changes if and when they occur.

The incidence of COVID-19 in Canada is increasing and New Leaf is carefully monitoring the situation to ensure the health and safety of all members of our community. New Leaf will keep you apprised of developments affecting our services and procedures.

We thank you for your cooperation and dedication to the people we support.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact our head office directly at 905-478-1418.