

February 24, 2022

Dear CLB members and employees:

As we enter out of February, we are seeing some positive changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although everyone we support has been connecting with their friends virtually and attending classes online, there is excitement in the air that Special Olympics is starting again and activities are being planned outside of the home.

However, the changes that are happening in the Province for the general public, beginning in March, will <u>not affect</u> or change the way that we are protecting everyone at Community Living Burlington.

We are continuing with our surveillance testing with rapid antigen tests once a week. The PPE protocols are still in effect and daily screening entering homes and programs must continue.

It has been 2 years since we had our "three weeks" lockdown, and yet the resilience I have seen from the people we support and our employees has been remarkable. This pandemic has been exhausting, to say the least, and when mid-December came, we had an even bigger challenge dealing with the Omicron variant. Since Omicron, we have had 35 employees test positive for COVID-19. 23 homes have been affected and unfortunately, we had 3 people we support hospitalized. Fortunately, employees and the people we support seem to be doing better; even though our most recent outbreak was declared last week.

We are hoping for the best as we move out of February and everyone is more than ready to get out of their homes and re-enter society.

As an agency, we will continue to work on a "re-opening" strategy. Day services are slowly re-opening and planning is underway for "best-case scenarios". Until then, we will carry on as we have for the last 2 years. We appreciate the support we have received from our stakeholders during this time. Fingers crossed that we will soon be back in person and resuming a normal life.

Sincerely,

Judy Pryde Executive Director