



1169234

August 26, 2020

HCC Vice Presidents
Regional Health Authorities

Re: Home and Community Care Adult Day Programs

Over the past few months the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) implemented a range of measures to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. This included direction, on March 18, 2020, to temporarily suspend the provision of health authority operated/funded Home and Community Care (HCC) adult day programs to reduce the risk of the virus spreading from asymptomatic individuals in the community to others in adult day program group settings and within long-term care homes where adult day programs are often located.

As the Province has had some success in flattening the curve, consideration has been given to how to safely restart adult day programs. The Ministry recognizes the impact that discontinuing adult day programs (ADP) has had on clients and caregivers that rely on them. In consultation with health authorities, the Ministry has determined that selective re-opening of adult day programs may proceed in accordance with the Ministry of Health Guideline: *Adult Day Programs and COVID-19* (attached). This Guideline outlines practice requirements to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Selective re-opening allows ADPs that operate in standalone facilities, or in long-term care or assisted living facilities with no shared spaces or staff, to resume operations in accordance with the following:

- Requirements outlined in the Ministry of Health Guideline: *Adult Day Programs and COVID-19*.
- Regional MHO directions (including restricting programs within facilities with active COVID-19 outbreaks). All sites must have an MHO (or delegate) approved COVID-19 Operating Plan prior to resuming operation as described in the Ministry of Health Guideline.
- Where clients cannot or will not adhere to physical distancing requirements, sites should refer to COVID-19 Ethics Analysis: *Intervening When Patients or Residents Pose a Risk of COVID-19 Transmission to Others* to inform any decision regarding participation in adult day programs.

I commend your hard work to put necessary safety measures in place. Your thoughtful planning will help seniors and staff stay safe as we move through the next phases of our pandemic in BC. Ministry staff will continue to engage with health authority home and community care leads to discuss issues and provide direction and advice in response to the situation as it evolves.

Sincerely,

Ross Hayward obo Teri Collins
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health Services Division

Attachment