

## Memo

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**To:** All Employees of Empower Simcoe  
**From:** Claudine Cousins, CEO  
**Date:** August 21, 2020  
**Regarding:** Preparing for Next Phase of Reopening Congregate Care Settings

This memo is a follow-up to the communication on August 13, 2020. As this pandemic was and continues to be a quickly evolving situation, Empower Simcoe's policies are continuously being revised to ensure compliance with the most up to date instructions from the Government of Ontario and Ontario Public Health.

Empower Simcoe makes its decisions in collaboration with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. We recognize the vital role families play in contributing to the quality of life for people residing in our Group Living locations and we understand the current restrictions are difficult for both families and their loved ones.

At this time, Empower Simcoe does not have the support to deviate from the existing guidelines and are awaiting further review and recommendations from Public Health. To that end, we continue to work closely with our local Public Health representatives to ensure all Infection Prevention and Control Measures are in place at all times. Through this collaborative partnership, we are actively advocating for updated guidelines to support a risk-based approach to transition people back home from their families and for additional contact during family visits.

This will include detailed protocols to support further family contact for people living in Group Living and a transition plan for people we support back into their homes who have been staying with their families since the onset of the Pandemic.

Management will be in touch with all employees, families, people we support, and stakeholders to provide further details in the coming weeks, once available.

As the COVID-19 outbreak evolves across the province, and in our community, the direction regarding service delivery will be revised as appropriate, keeping the safety, health, and emotional well-being of people we support and staff as the priority.