



COVID-19 PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Updated October 2021

At the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, we continue to take a proactive approach to protect those we serve amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been diligent to increase our precautions to limit the spread of infection and meet the needs of the community we serve.

*Please be assured the public can continue to access child protection services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 905-525-2012 or After Hours at 905-522-8053. To access these services in French, call 1-855-550-3571.

We have a Pandemic Plan, Business Continuity Plan, and an Access Safety Plan in place. We are actively monitoring the situation and responding as required. The following practice guidelines were put in place for all Society operations:

- Our organization has implemented a Vaccine Policy for all required individuals. Any required individuals who have not provided proof of full vaccination are required to complete a vaccine education program, and are subject to regular rapid testing in office.
- Staff who are conducting in-person meetings have been asked to screen each client at the point of intake and offer PPE before a meeting begins.
- While we look to the future for opportunities where staff may return back to office more frequently and safely, the majority of our staff continue to work remotely, and we have implemented virtual meeting technology to ensure social distancing practices are followed.
- Staff, volunteers and resource providers have been asked not to attend the office unless they have an appointment and to notify the Society if they, or any person who resides with them, have any symptoms of illness or if someone living in their household has been advised to self-isolate by a health professional.
- All youth programming is taking place virtually.
- Our volunteer drivers' program has been re-instated. Drivers' vehicles are equipped with all necessary PPE.
- A centralized reporting system for all absences, potential illness notifications and pandemic related inquiries is updated daily.
- We maintain daily cleaning schedules and disinfecting of our buildings. We have increased the number of hand sanitizing stations and implemented best practices with respect to hand washing and routine practices.
- We will continue to adjust and re-calibrate our plans as required and appreciate your support.

The CCASH is committed to continually monitoring and updating our plans so that we are responsive to the evolving environment. For more information on COVID-19, we encourage you to stay informed by regularly visiting the City of Hamilton Public Health website at <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health>