



Treatment Centre

[a new beginning]

NOTICE TO DE NOVO CONTRIBUTORS

April 14, 2020

Dear De Novo Partners,

Over the last several weeks, the De Novo Executive Committee has been meeting and discussing how to best adapt and move forward in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our province. The health and safety of De Novo's clients, management and staff is a priority for everyone involved and we are working diligently to ensure that the best possible measures are taken to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. New policies and practices have been implemented at De Novo, including a temporary freeze on the acceptance of new clients, which was decided on March 16 and came into effect on the same day. Moreover, in order to accommodate the new physical distancing requirements, set out by Public Health and the Ministry of Health the maximum number of clients at De Novo has been reduced to 15. For the time-being, female clients will be referred by De Novo to Renascent Treatment Centre as was the case in the past. 15 new male clients coming to De Novo Huntsville will be brought in, all within the same three or so days after which, admissions will be closed until the next 35-day treatment rotation where we will then admit another 15 clients. Admissions at De Novo could potentially start as early as the week of April 27 or as late as the week of May 04. Below is a listing of the specific measures being implemented at De Novo, for your reference and information.

1. COVID-19 Screening measures:

- a. Staff will be required to pass the temperature reading and screening questionnaire prior to entering the premises for each shift and again at or near the midway point of their shift.
- b. Clients will be required to pass the temperature reading and screening prior to entering the premises in addition to passing this screening process each day in treatment, and multiple times for the first two weeks of their stay.
- c. Staff and clients will be provided with educational training regarding COVID-19.
- d. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and handwash/sanitization stations are provided with policies in place.
- e. We will have nursing staff available to assist in the screening and medical policies established through this process.
- f. Paramedics and the local assessment centres will assist in the case that a client or staff become symptomatic in any way and quarantine procedures will then be followed.

2. Social Distancing

- a. Each room in the building has been measured and marked to indicate social distancing parameters including capacity limits.

- b. Clients will have their own rooms and designated lounging areas based on each room's capacity limit.
 - c. Processes are in place for staff and clients who do not abide by social distancing and other related policies, including discipline/discharge.
 - d. Smoking areas, entrances/exits, group and meal rotations will be implemented to ensure that social distancing can be practiced effectively.
- 3. Admission criteria (in addition to usual process)**
- a. Clients will need to ensure that they have passed the screening questionnaire and temperature reading prior to entrance/admission to the building.
 - b. Admissions will be brought into separate rooms and at staggered times throughout the day.
 - c. All items coming into the treatment centre will need to be washed, sanitized etc.
- 4. Staffing and Client numbers**
- a. Women and clients on Methadone will be referred to Renascent during this time.
 - b. Client admissions will be limited to 15 per 35-days and will all be admitted at once, within a three-day span.
 - c. As per recommendations from Public Health, bed limitations of 15 max. are due to social distancing requirements and emergency response preparedness measures.
- 5. Programming**
- a. In addition to the social distancing criteria set in section 2 of this letter, group therapy will be provided in smaller group sizes.
 - b. Clients who are waiting to be admitted to De Novo will continue to receive one-on-one support via phone as arranged with staff and requested by client.
- 6. Housekeeping and sanitization**
- a. Our housekeeping and sanitization processes have been enhanced to ensure that all cleaning and sanitization protocol is met or exceeded.

We believe that implementing the above-noted measures in the present circumstances is the best way to maintain the health and safety of De Novo's clients and staff. We will keep you updated as the situation unfolds.

Sincerely,

Patrick Dillon
Chair, De Novo Board of Directors

Larry Brokenshire
Vice-Chair, De Novo Board of Directors

Cathy Sprague
Exec. Committee, De Novo Board of Directors

Joe Redshaw
Exec. Committee, De Novo Board of Directors

Aaron Sinclair
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