



COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Community Members:

To protect the health and safety of our clients, staff and community, Banyan has implemented the following measures:

- Effective March 16, 2020 SNAP® and SURE groups have been temporarily suspended until further notice.
- The Grocer Ease program remains open on a client by client basis... please contact the Program Supervisor for further information.
- The following programs remain available for crisis counselling through telephone support:
 - Counselling and Assessment
 - Mental Health Youth Court Worker Support
 - Substance Abuse Counselling and Support
- In accordance to the Statement from [Minister Elliott and Minister Smith on the Social Services Sector's Response to COVID-19](#) non-essential visitors will not be permitted to enter the following Banyan facilities:
 - Arrell Youth Centre (AYC)
 - Peninsula Youth Centre (PYC)
 - George R. Force (GRF)
- All essential visitors, including vendors, will be asked to complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire. Individuals with responses marked YES will be turned away and recommended to self-quarantine at home for 14 days, as per Public Health mandate.
- Effective March 25, 2020 the office at 688 Queensdale Avenue in Hamilton will be closed to the public until further notice.

Banyan will continue to provide updates on our website. We thank you in advance for your co-operation. With your help, we are doing our part to keep our communities safe.

Keeping You Informed

Official information about the status of COVID-19 and how to respond to symptoms:

- Government of Ontario: Coronavirus Updates
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>
- Hamilton Public Health Services: Coronavirus Updates
<https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/covid-19/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Niagara Public Health Services: Coronavirus Updates
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/default.aspx>

Resources to assist you during this time:

- Government of Ontario - COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>
- Mental Health Counselling - For mental health counselling over the phone, you can contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 or visit the Canadian Mental Health Association tips to support mental health amid concerns of COVID-19 pandemic at <http://ontario.cmha.ca/>

Recent news headlines regarding COVID-19:

- June 24, 2020 – Ontario Extends Declaration of Emergency to July 15
<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/06/ontario-extends-declaration-of-emergency-to-july-15.html>
- **June 8, 2020** - Ontario Permits More Businesses and Services to Reopen in the Coming Days
<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/06/ontario-permits-more-businesses-and-services-to-reopen-in-the-coming-days.html>
- **June 2, 2020** – Ontario Extends Declaration of Emergency until June 30
<https://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/06/ontario-extends-declaration-of-emergency-until-june-30.html>
- **May 12, 2020** - Declaration of Emergency Extended While Ontario Gradually Reopens the Economy
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-after-covid-19>
- **April 28, 2020** - Ontario Unveils Guiding Principles to Reopen the Province.
<https://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-unveils-guiding-principles-to-reopen-the-province.html>
- **April 23, 2020** - Ontario Delivers Action Plan to Increase Protection for Vulnerable People and Those Who Care for Them.
<https://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-delivers-action-plan-to-increase-protection-for-vulnerable-people-and-those-who-care-for-the.html>
- **April 23, 2020** - Ontario Extends Emergency Orders to Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19.
<https://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-extends-emergency-orders-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19.html>
- **April 20, 2020** - Health Experts Say the COVID-19 Outbreak Has Likely Peaked in Ontario.
<https://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/health-experts-say-the-covid-19-outbreak-has-likely-peaked-in-ontario.html>
- **April 17, 2019** - Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: New Support to Protect Canadian Jobs.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-new-support-to-protect-canadian-jobs.html>
- **April 15, 2019** - Expanding access to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and proposing a new wage boost for essential workers. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/expanding-access-to-the-canada-emergency-response-benefit-and-proposing-a-new-wage-boost-for-essential-workers.html>

- **April 14, 2019** - Ontario Extends Declaration of Emergency to Continue the Fight Against COVID-19.
<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-extends-declaration-of-emergency-to-continue-the-fight-against-covid-19>
- **April 10, 2019** - Ontario Significantly Expanding COVID-19 Testing.
<https://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-significantly-expanding-covid-19-testing.html>