



COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Community Members:

As the Province of Ontario responds to COVID-19, Banyan's community and group programs continue to adhere to Ministry guidelines established for our essential service residential programs.

Our number one priority remains to be the safety and wellbeing of our clients, staff and community. For that reason if there becomes a need to retract on our recovery plans to reopen we are prepared to do so. Please continue to look to our website for the most up to date service information.

In keeping with the Provincial announcement to transition public health regions out of the shutdown and into a revised and strengthened [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#) (the "Framework") and Office of the Premier announcements, the following changes are effective **Monday, April 8, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.:**

Banyan's office at 688 Queensdale Avenue in Hamilton will open on an appointment basis only however remains closed to the general public.

The following Banyan services will be delivered remotely through secure video conferencing platforms:

- **Children Services:**

Services will be delivered in smaller groups to allow for safe distancing

- [SNAP](#)® (Stop Now and Plan)
- [SURE](#) (Self-Understanding and Regulation of Emotions)

The following Banyan services remain open and fully operational:

- **Youth Services:**

- Arrell Youth Centre
- Peninsula Youth Centre
- George R. Force Group Home
- Bridge Program
- Reintegration Services
- Mental Health Youth Court Worker Support
- Section 34 Assessments
- Counselling and Assessment
- Substance Abuse Counselling and Support

- **Senior Services:**

- The Grocer Ease program remains open on a client by client basis. For Grocer Ease contact information, please visit our Senior Services webpage [<here>](#).

In accordance with the [Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services - Youth Justice \(MCCSS-YJ\) guidelines](#) from 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 and deliveries, will be asked to complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation. With your help, we will continue to do 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 Update <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>
- Ontario Provincial Status on COVID-19 <https://www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information>
- 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/>
- Learn about Ontario's vaccination program to help protect against COVID-19: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>
- Hamilton Region Residents:
 - Hamilton Public Health 905-974-9848, press 2
 - To book a:
 - COVID-19 test: book an appointment online www.hamiltoncovidtest.ca
 - Vaccination Registration: <https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine-booking>
- Niagara Region Residents:
 - Public Health 1-888-505-6074, press 7
 - To book a:
 - COVID-19 test: book appointment, call 905-378-4647 ext. 42819 (4-CV19)
 - Vaccination Registration: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/vaccinations/default.aspx>

Recent news headlines regarding COVID-19:

- **July 9, 2021** – Ontario Moving to Step Three of Roadmap to Reopen on July 16 <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000501/ontario-moving-to-step-three-of-roadmap-to-reopen-on-july-16>
 - Please view the [regulation for the full list of public health and workplace safety measures](#) that need to be followed.
- **June 24, 2021** - Ontario Moving to Step Two of Roadmap to Reopen on June 30 <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000399/ontario-moving-to-step-two-of-roadmap-to-reopen-on-june-30>