



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.

Banyan's program and services operate in keeping with the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act](#), Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) directives, and Public Health guidelines as follows:

Children Services:

- The following Banyan services are open and fully operational.
 - [SNAP](#)® (Stop Now and Plan)
 - [SURE](#) (Self-Understanding and Regulation of Emotions)
 - [PAC](#) (Parent/Adolescent Conflict Program)

Youth Services:

- The following Banyan services remain open and fully operational:
 - 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

In accordance with the [MCCSS covid-19 direction for Youth Justice open and secure facilities](#) non-essential visits resumed February 21, 2022, however all non-essential reintegration leaves continue to be restricted until further notice for the following:

- Arrell Youth Centre (AYC)
- Peninsula Youth Centre (PYC)
- George R. Force (GRF)

All visitors, including vendors and deliveries, will be asked to complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire. As per [MCCSS's March 2022 interim directions](#), mandatory rapid antigen screening is part of the active screening for all visitors entering Banyan locations. Exception only if the visitor presented a negative rapid antigen test result at the same location the day before.

Senior Services:

- The Grocer Ease program is operating as normal. For Grocer Ease contact information, please visit our Senior Services webpage [<here>](#).

Banyan's locations at 688 Queensdale Avenue and 435 York Boulevard in Hamilton are open to the general public.

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:

- Government of Ontario: Coronavirus Update & vaccination program to help protect against COVID-19 <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 and how to respond to symptoms:

- Government of Ontario - COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>
- Mental Health Counselling:
 - Through the [Wellness Together Canada](#) online portal, people of all ages across the country can access immediate, free and confidential mental health and substance use supports
 - 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/>
- Download your enhanced vaccine certificates with official QR code: <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>
- COVID-19 test appointments are only open to high-risk individuals. To determine your eligibility status visit: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1001387/updated-eligibility-for-pcr-testing-and-case-and-contact-management-guidance-in-ontario>
- Hamilton Region Residents:
 - Hamilton Public Health 905-974-9848, press 2
 - COVID-19 test appointments can be booked 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
 - COVID-19 test appointments (walk-ins are not accepted). To determine your eligibility status visit:
 - Can be booked [online](#) or by calling 905-378-4647 ext. 42819 (4-CV19)
 - Vaccination Registration: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/vaccinations/default.aspx>
- COVID-19: Travel, testing and borders: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>
 - Use ArriveCAN to enter Canada (Mandatory): <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>

Recent news headlines regarding COVID-19:

- **June 17, 2022 Statement from Health Canada on Decommissioning COVID Alert**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2022/06/statement-from-health-canada-on-decommissioning-covid-alert.html>
 - The exposure notification service is disabled and users can delete the app from their devices. Find instructions on [how to delete the COVID Alert here](#).
- **June 8, 2022 – Most Masking Requirements to be Lifted on June 11**
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/1002160/most-masking-requirements-to-be-lifted-on-june-11>