



## 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

Youth Justice licensed open and secure custody/detention facilities are to follow the [Ministry of Health Guidance \(version 8\) dated October 6, 2022](#):

- 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. Mandatory rapid antigen screening is part of the active screening for all visitors entering Banyan locations.

### 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: information and resources for individuals, employees, business owners and employers  
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>
- Ontario Provincial Status on COVID-19  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information>
- Hamilton Public Health Services regarding COVID-19 <https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-symptoms-positive-test>
- 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:

- Learn about Ontario's vaccination program and how to book a vaccine
  - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-vaccines>
- COVID-19: Stop the spread – what you need to do to help stop the spread and care for someone who has it
  - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread>
- Public health measures and advice: Learn how to protect yourself, your family, and your community from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses
  - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/public-health-measures-and-advice>
- Take this self-assessment if you have any symptoms of illness or tested positive for COVID-19. You can also take it on behalf of someone else. You will get a recommendation on what to do next.
  - [Self-Assessment](#)
- Answer the following questions before going to school or childcare today.
  - [School and childcare screening Tool](#)
- Ministry of Health/Ministry of Long-Term Care Guidance for COVID-19
  - [https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019\\_guidance.aspx](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx)
- Antiviral treatments are now available for people with symptoms (even if mild) who are at risk of severe COVID-19. Take this screener to determine if you are eligible:
  - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-treatment-screener/>
- 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 services and supports at <http://ontario.cmha.ca/>

### Recent news headlines regarding COVID-19:

- **November 1, 2022 Free Flu Shot Available for Ontarians Six Months of Age and Older**  
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002437/free-flu-shot-available-for-ontarians-six-months-of-age-and-older>
- **October 14, 2022 Ministers Calandra and Cho to Encourage Vaccine Uptake**  
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/advisory/1002394/ministers-calandra-and-cho-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake>
- **October 13, 2022 – All Ontarians Aged 12+ Eligible for Bivalent Booster**  
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002384/all-ontarians-aged-12-eligible-for-bivalent-booster>