

October 25, 2021

The Ontario government has released its [plan for the gradual removal of remaining public health and workplace safety measures](#). Ontario will slowly and incrementally lift remaining public health and workplace safety measures, including vaccine passports and masking in indoor public settings, over the next six months. This phased approach will be guided by the ongoing assessment and monitoring of key public health and health care indicators, such as the identification of any new COVID-19 variants, increases in hospitalizations and ICU occupancy and rapid increases in transmission to ensure that public health and workplace safety measures are lifted safely.

With this latest step in Ontario's plans to re-open, Carea continues to increase on-site operations that have been paused or modified during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are a number of Carea programs which did not reduce service, and in fact may have increased since March 2020, and the management team has been working with remaining teams to make sure all of Carea's programs are meeting client needs for both in-person visits and virtual appointments by phone or video call. This includes activities such as monitoring wait times to make sure clients can access the services they need, making more in-person appointments available, increasing on-site group programming, and others.

We have learned a great deal over the past year and a half. Carea teams are incorporating these learnings as they continue to build back in-person services while testing and adapting new ways of delivering virtual services where appropriate. Increasing access to in-person services is being done with great care and planning. Opening more in-person service is informed by formal COVID-19 safety plans according to Carea policies and procedures as well as Provincial guidelines and protocols.

Carea is committed to keep delivering programs and services that improve the health and well-being of our clients and community. Please be assured that in doing so, the health and safety of Carea's employees, clients, and visitors continues to be our top priority. We are confident that the safety measures we have in place, including our new Vaccination Policy, enhanced cleaning protocols and COVID Safety Plans, will continue to protect the health and safety of everyone at Carea. By working together, we will continue to create a safe, "new normal" that works for Carea's clients, staff, and community.

If you have questions or concerns about changes to your services, please call us at (905) 723-0036 or email [info@careachc.ca](mailto:info@careachc.ca)