

March 17 2020 Update on COVID-19 for the Potential Place Community

Posted on March 17, 2020

Potential Place is monitoring the status of the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) outbreak so we can share vital information with our community and will continue to do so over the coming weeks and months. We understand that this epidemic strikes directly at the heart of our model that is built on social connection, but we must make difficult decisions quickly, as the choices we make in the next weeks will have a significant impact on the speed and scale of spread of this virus in our community and beyond.

Please know we are doing everything we can to enable Potential Place programs to continue, but in a virtual and reduced capacity, while ensuring our members are supported during this difficult time.

Important Updates on Potential Place Programs and Services:

- Social Recreation activities on Wednesday evenings, Friday evenings, and Saturdays are suspended, effective March 20, 2020 until June 1, 2020.
- Potential Place Clubhouse will be open for normal work-ordered day hours each week-day from 8am-4PM.
- Potential Place is continuing to complete and file member's tax returns during normal work hours at Clubhouse.
- **Potential Place will continue to assist members with housing, education, employment and advocacy for entitlements during work-ordered day hours and by telephone and social media.**

At-Risk Members are asked to refrain from coming to the clubhouse. You are considered at-risk if ANY of the following applies to you:

- You suffer from a chronic illness such as respiratory disease, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, immune deficiency, HIV, and/or diabetes
- You have a history of cancer and/or stroke
- You are an active smoker

Individuals wishing to quit smoking can obtain help at the following link. IF you need assistance with this, please call your staff-link at Clubhouse.

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page14487.aspx>

How can I stay connected to Potential Place if I am practicing social distancing or quarantined?

Social Media

- Please join the Potential Place **Facebook**: (<https://www.facebook.com/potential.place/>) to stay in contact with staff and members.
- Please follow us here on Twitter for updates: <https://twitter.com/potentialplace>
- We will continue to send out emails every week, so make sure you are subscribed to our weekly email updates. If you aren't receiving emails, please contact Cal at cal.gibbens@potentialplace.org
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Outreach Calls

- Staff and members from your unit will be reaching out to you. **Please inform your Potential Place staff-link if you will not be coming to the clubhouse, so they are aware of your absence. In order to assist you, we will need updated contact information.**

What other external services/communications will be provided by Potential Place?

- This week, Potential place will reach out to our commercial partners in the city for **hand sanitizer** and it will be made available to the Potential Place community.

Members in need or emergency financial assistance should review the following link for resources available to them. Potential Place staff can assist with advocacy in this area too:

<https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-financial-assistance.aspx?fbclid=IwAR1XQFbfvWcicMYC4U6HIBjNIUKuseXRXVevwECqdmgf2WQ1yyynLuEpclcw>

- **The Potential Place Main Line (403) 216-9250 is accessible from 8am to 4pm. Outside of these hours, if you are in crisis, the distress centre line may be reached at (403) 266-HELP**
<https://www.distresscentre.com/>

If you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are asked to self-quarantine, please review this link: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx>

Please share this message with members, staff and other community participants.

For the most up-to-date resources, information and guidance on the coronavirus epidemic, please consult the following resources:

<https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx>

PUT AHS LINKS HERE

Sincerely,

Frank Kelton, *MSW, RSW, MBA*
Executive Director
Potential Place Society

