

## West End 24 Hour Safe Space COVID-19 Response Plan

March 13, 2020

In response to growing concerns locally about the spread of COVID-19, the West End 24 Hour Safe Space (WE24) is monitoring the evolving information from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, and all levels of government, and will increase efforts in implementing best practices to flatten the curve of contagion.

For the time being, WE24 is implementing the following plan to reduce the risk of contagion in our community and at our 430 Langside location. This plan is being re-evaluated on a daily basis and is pending the ongoing support of the City of Winnipeg.

- All staff are required to implement the following precautions:
  - ill staff stay home from work, properly notifying supervisor of absence and complying with SNA Policy Manual provisions on sick time;
  - follow recommendations by the Manitoba Government on regular hand washing with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand cleanser when available, and ensure those guidelines are posted inside the building as notice and reminder.
  - **at least once daily, each staff proceeds with cleaning with anti-bacterial wipes of commonly touched surfaces, such as door handles, knobs, faucets, etc., as well as laptop, mice, keyboards, phones and other devices.**
  - maintain an open line of communication with the team about their health status and concerns, to prevent any spreading of the virus and make appropriate and timely plans of action.
  
- WE24 Specific Programming precautions:
  - At this time WE24 will remain open.
  - We will be limiting the numbers of participants in the space to a maximum of 30.
  - WE24 will be used as an emergency service only until further notice. Staff will assess the needs of participants upon arrival and communicate these requests to all people accessing the space.
  - WE24 will not be receiving donations, including Meal Train until further notice.
  - Any participant who has an alternative place to sleep will be asked to do so. Youth with safe CFS placements will be asked to remain at their placement.
  - Should a youth with an alternative and safe place to sleep arrive at WE24, they will be provided a meal and asked to access the spaces they have available. Staff will make contact with social workers or support staff of youth to communicate this in advance.
  - Mats in the gym must be at least 2 metres (approx. 6ft) apart on all sides and one person per mat.

- The KWD room and the Craft room will be open for participants who staff feel might be more compromised due to weak immune systems or symptoms. Limit the number to 2 folks per room and mats separated.
  - Quiet time will commence at 12:00am. **No exceptions.** Hallway lights go down and kitchen closes, food can still be served to those who come in later.
  - There will be NO SAFE RIDES until further notice.
  - Should there be an emergency that requires transportation, the participant will be asked to sit in the back of the van. Staff will limit a maximum of one participant per safe ride.
- Our staff are committed to reminding participants:
    - To wash their hands frequently. Encourage people to wash their hands when they arrive, throughout their stay, and prior to leaving.
    - To leave immediately while buses are still running, if they do not require a place to rest.
    - That there may be a drug shortage. We will remind folks to stock up but don't overuse at one time and circulate the information provided on safe drug use during this time.
    - Limit physical contact between folks, encourage people to not hug or shake hands.
    - That new information is being released and assessed by management on an ongoing basis and will be updating this plan and our staff team and community as changes are being made.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support in our efforts to protect our staff team, while doing our best to serve our community.