

CK Emergency Food Providers COVID-19 Recommendations

We understand the importance of ensuring that our emergency food providers are able to continue to meet the needs of our community during this time of uncertainty. To help ensure the safety of your staff, volunteers and individuals visiting your programs we have created the following recommendations.

Soup Kitchens

- Avoid large gatherings of people. Please utilize takeaway options instead.
- Ensure that your space allows for adequate social distancing – you can do this by having at least 2 meters of space between people. This is important even when people are waiting in line.
 1. Takeaway meals could include a bagged meal that can be taken home to be eaten. We encourage you to do this outside of the building rather than have patrons enter your facility. If this is not possible, ensure that anyone entering your building is screened and asked the following questions:
 2. Do you have any respiratory symptoms, such as fever, new or worsening cough, or difficulty breathing?
 3. Have you travelled outside of Canada (including to the US) in the past 14 days?

Anyone who answers “Yes” to one or both should not be allowed to enter.

- Have appropriate amounts of hand sanitizer (70% alcohol) and if possible, hand washing sinks
- Direction for all volunteers:
 - If volunteers have travelled outside of Canada (including to the US) in the last 14 days, they should be self-isolating and are not permitted to attend the program.
 - If volunteers feel unwell or are showing symptoms of illness they should not come to the program
 - Ensure that you have sufficient hand washing stations, and encourage all volunteers to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds before preparing food, after touching their face, after coughing or sneezing (into their elbow), etc.
 - Increase on-site cleaning/disinfection, especially of commonly touched surfaces.
- If you have challenges with these recommendations and decide to pause or put your program on hold, please let CK Public Health know so that we can share this information with providers.

Food Banks

- Screen those entering at the door asking if anyone has travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days (including to the US). These individuals will not be able to enter.
- Notify everyone at the door that anyone who is feeling ill or showing symptoms of illness will not be permitted to enter.
- Post signage that states the above – this can be found below in the resources section.
- Limit gathering of people in lines and waiting areas. Ensure that people are able to maintain a minimum of 2 meters apart while waiting.
- Consider having people stagger their arrivals.
- Limit the number of people that are allowed into the space at one time. This will increase the time it takes to get people through, so consider extending your hours if possible.
- Have premade packages ready for individuals/differing family sizes.
- Do not divide items into smaller packages and provide only unopened packages.
- If you typically provide 3-5 days of provisions, consider providing 1-2 weeks to reduce the number of visits that people need to make.
- Direction for volunteers and staff
 - If staff or volunteers have travelled outside of Canada (including to the US) in the last 14 days, they are not to come to the program for the full 14 days after they returned, even if they are feeling well.
 - If staff or volunteers feel ill or are showing symptoms of illness, they should not come to the program.
 - Ensure that you have sufficient hand washing stations, and encourage all volunteers to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds before preparing food, after touching their face, after coughing or sneezing (into their elbow), etc.
 - Increase on-site cleaning, especially in high traffic areas.
- If you do decide to close or put your program on hold, please let CK Public Health know so we can share this information with providers.

General Information on what can you do

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- If you are unable to access soap and water, use 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue or into your elbow, not into your hand.
- Now and in any cold and flu season, stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Resources

CK Public Health – website - <https://ckphu.com/2020/01/covid19/>

CK Public Health COVID-19 specific email – covid19@chatham-kent.ca

CK Public Health – social media accounts – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Public Health Ontario - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/public-resources>

English Visitor Sign - <https://ckphu.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/English-Sign.pdf>

Current as of March 18th/2020