

COVID-19 UPDATE – Residential Admissions

April 20, 2020

Dear DSYTC families, friends and stakeholders,

I hope this message finds you all healthy and well. These are extraordinary times but I am hopeful that through our collective efforts and patience, better days will soon be ahead.

Since our last formal communication, there has been extensive strategic discussion and activity regarding COVID-19 within the mental health and addictions sector specifically, and the health sector more broadly. At the local, regional, provincial and national level, politicians, public health officials and health service providers have been identifying and coordinating best practice responses to the virus so to mitigate risks as much as possible. Things are moving very quickly and the substantial and timely transition to increased virtual models of care has been impressive. Much has been accomplished but much remains to do.

With enhanced protocols in place, some personal protective equipment (PPE) on hand (albeit not fully sufficient), and increased access to COVID-19 testing when it is required, **I am very pleased to announce that we are now in a position to slowly re-open residential treatment admissions to select applicants.** We have temporarily updated our internal entrance criteria to reflect the reality that we must thoroughly screen applicants for potential virus exposure and risk. Our intake and management team members will review all applications with this in mind. In circumstances where the risk to admit someone into residential care is deemed too high, we will offer virtual care supports (as we do with our aftercare and family programming). Additionally, other resources and supports will be offered to any individuals on our residential treatment waitlist.



We understand that the isolation and distancing associated with our collective COVID-19 response can both cause, and exacerbate, addiction and mental health issues. Along with our sector partners, we will continue to do all we can to help those in need to the absolute best of our ability and capacity.

The safety and well-being of our clients and team members will always be our ultimate priority and I am incredibly proud of how our team has responded to date. These are trying times for all involved but with challenges, do come opportunities – such as the building of our personal and shared resilience.

We will continue to monitor the situation very closely, consult with our health system partners and public health officials, and make any required adjustments to our approach.

For those wishing to apply or refer, feel free to contact us at 613-594-8333 (Monday to Friday 0800-1600). Youth can also apply anytime online at: www.davesmithcentre.org. No formal referral is required.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the DSYTC. Wishing you and yours good health.

Sincerely,

Mike Beauchesne

Executive Director

Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre

A Safe Place For A Fresh Start...

About the DSYTC:

Established in 1993, the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre (DSYTC) is a non-profit, community-based agency dedicated to helping youth, between the ages of 13-21, overcome substance use, mental health and other related challenges in order to achieve a healthy lifestyle. Our programs and services include residential addiction and mental health treatment for young males and females, family support as well as assertive aftercare services. Primary care, psychiatric support, prosocial recreation and academic programming are also part of our core offering. To learn more about our cause, impact and programming, please visit our website: www.davesmthcentre.org.