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**Counselling Services of Belleville & District**

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March 16, 2020

Staff, Families and Community Partners;

CSBD has been closely monitoring developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). CSBD cares and is concerned about the well-being of the people we serve; families, employees, and volunteers. Our agency provides support to people who are generally very vulnerable for many different reasons and are at risk of suffering the worst effects of any illness, and in particular, the coronavirus. We have been taking active steps to make sure everyone has the necessary information to practice good health and hygiene habits to reduce the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses alike.

Preventive and responsive measures have been, and will continue to be, implemented as the situation evolves, particularly if the level of risk escalates. There are currently no known cases of coronavirus in Hasting Prince Edward County's immediate area, other than those currently in quarantine at the Trenton Air Base; however, we will continue to collaborate with the Public Health Unit and other local, provincial, and international health authorities to monitor the situation.

We are all working together to do as much as possible to reduce the potential spread of illness by taking precautions. To do our part in this action, we are implementing the following procedures effective March 16, 2020, and until further notice:

* Postponing any training and planned educational activities internally, as well as any scheduled with our community partners.
* Postponing all face-to-face meetings, however we will conduct any necessary consultations via telephone and video.
* Practicing social distancing (limited contact with others, handling of materials, etc.)
* Visits to client homes will be suspended, however we will remain in close contact through phone and video to continue to provide regular support. We will be developing and implementing strategies to continue to support families wherever possible.
* Please support and encourage social distancing for the people we serve.

Measures such as the ones listed above will be modified and intensified based on recommendations from Public Health and the Ministry. We are taking this seriously, and we will continue to monitor the status, provide information, and update practices per recommendations from Public Health Ontario and the Ministry.

If COVID-19 begins to spread in the community, changes in plans may be necessary. All stakeholders will be notified in the event these changes need to be implemented.

We continue to monitor the situation and are fully prepared to act on the advice and direction from Public Health and the Ministry.

We encourage everyone to visit trusted public health websites to ensure you get the most accurate and up to date information.

For more information, please visit or call:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/\>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.hpepublichealth.ca>

Thank you,

Susan Seaman,

Executive Director.