

Protocol for Health & Wellness of Associates and Clients of AYSFS during Covid-19

Essential steps to keep you, your clients and your families safe during this COVID 19 virus.

1. **Utilize the COVID-19 Screening Checklist** before every associate and client visit. (See attached Screener Checklist and online for most up to date version.)

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_screening_guidance.pdf

2. Before entering and exiting a client's home always wash your hands with hand soap or with 70% hand sanitizer. This will ensure you aren't taking any virus germs into the client's home, or to other clients' homes and or home to your family. **HAND WASHING is crucial and must be done for 15-20 seconds, using proper technique to ensure cleanliness.**

3. **Routinely clean and disinfect all high touch areas** such as light switches, taps, toilets, handles, door knobs etc. with residential cleanser (eg. Mr. Clean, Pinesol, Lysol etc) in water solution as per dilution instructions on container. Alternatively, you can also use a diluted 0.5% bleach solution: 1 tsp per cup of water, or 20 ml (4 tsp) per litre of water. Alternatively wipe surfaces with a Lysol or other type of disinfectant wipe. It's recommended to wipe these areas at least once per visit, ideally twice. If not cleaned, **the COVID 19 virus can stay in contact with hard surfaces, particularly metal and hard plastic for an extended period of time.** The more porous the surface, the less time the virus remains viable.



4. **Gloves are to be worn** after initially washing your hands or sanitizing while performing personal hygiene tasks: when your hands will come in contact with chemicals, cleaning solutions, blood or bodily fluids. To take the gloves off, pull from inside the glove and then use it to remove the other glove. Avoid contact of the surface of the glove with your hands. Wash hands again.

5. **Masks (surgical or reusable)** should be worn for controlling the spread of bacteria & viruses by Associate to others. This is important because of the concern of asymptomatic spread of covid-19. A mask may also offer reassurance for the senior that he/she is being protected.

6. **Gowns/Change of Clothing**: If your clothes will come in contact with blood/ bodily fluids during the provision of services for your client, a reusable gown/ tshirt/ scrub shirt should be worn, so you can change clothing between clients.

6. If you are experiencing any symptoms of a fever, cold, avoid coming into contact with anyone. Complete the self assessment. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0> If you are ill with non covid-19 illness please stay home until symptoms have passed. **Stay home, stay safe and help keep your clients safe.**

7. Whenever possible, practice **social distancing** by maintaining at least 6 ft /2 metres between yourself and others. If you cannot turn so your back is to others, especially in a crowded space eg grocery store or elevator.

8. For any clients experiencing suspected or positive covid-19, please refer to **Covid-19 Protocols May 13, 2020.**

