



Giving Hope Today

The Salvation Army

Broadview Village

1132 Broadview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4K 2S5
Telephone (416) 425-1052



April 1, 2021

Dear Broadview Village Families, Friends, Volunteers, Staff and Advocates for the people we support,

I have some great news, and some not-so-great news

I want to begin by thanking you for your continued support over these past 54 weeks of pandemic. Your hard work as staff, your care and support as residents, families, and volunteers, and the overall sense of “we are all in this together” has been a major component in our being able to manage through this crisis.

On the great news side, it is with pleasure that I let you know that our residents who have consent can begin getting vaccinated this Saturday, April 3. We are in the process of working out the logistics at our end for transporting as many as we can, as quickly as we can, from their home to the “mass vaccination sites”. For those individuals who cannot go to these sites we are working with Michael Garron Hospital and the Sector Pandemic Planning Initiative group to arrange mobile clinics to come to our homes.

Regarding people who are living in their family homes or independently, our latest information is that spots on the vaccination queue are opening up in a few days to facilitate you getting your vaccinations as well. As we hear more we will let you know, and please note that we are working out the logistics as to how to best support you with this opportunity opening up.

I want to publicly thank Susan Bisailon (CEO Safehaven) and Sandy Stemp (COO Reena) and our MCCSS partners for their advocacy on our behalf throughout this “vaccination phase” of the pandemic. This new opportunity will be a key element in keeping our residents, their families and our staff safe.

On the “not-so-great-news” side of the equation, Ontario is entering another lockdown with a stay at home order starting 12:01 am this Saturday. As a result, we are temporarily suspending visits starting then as well. This decision has not been made lightly, and is in large part a recognition of what we are seeing in the current trends. Key elements in our thinking are

- Over 50%, and rising, of the new cases are the “variants”
- The variants are proving to be much more transmissible
- The new variants are resulting in a much higher percentage of hospital admissions
- Younger and healthier people are requiring hospitalization – those with other health issues or chronic conditions are at even greater risk for hospitalization and death
- ICU's are already at an all-time high for admissions which forced Toronto hospitals to move patients to other areas of the Province this week

William and Catherine Booth
Founders

Brian Peddle
General

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- Besides age, studies just being published in the US are showing that having a developmental disability (and associated secondary health issues) is the highest predictor of death in people who die from COVID-19

We are suspending visits out of an abundance of caution, but I think that is the moral and ethical stance to take at this time. We will be constantly reviewing this as new information comes out – particularly in relation to family members who have had both vaccination shots – but while we consult with Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Health officials, we felt it was prudent to take this step.

I know that this is particularly sad given the holiday weekend and the fact that, for Christians, this is a very holy time when traditionally we would be together. I too miss my family, my church family (we are again doing virtual services) and my friends. I believe however that these tough decisions will hold us in good stead going forward and assist in keeping people safe while the vaccinations continue to be rolled-out across the city, province and country.

As always, if anyone would like to talk about this, or any other part of our COVID-19 response, you are welcome to contact me directly at 647 457-3242 or via email at Arthur.Mathews@salvationarmy.ca

Many thanks, stay safe and God Bless!

Art Mathews, Executive Director

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