



FACT SHEET

UPDATE ABOUT VON SAFETY MEASURES DURING COVID-19 (May 8, 2020)

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY?

VON is committed to the health and safety of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. We follow evolving recommendations from provincial government authorities and all levels of public health agencies. Our most important priority is the health and safety of our clients, their families and our employees and volunteers. Here are some of the health and safety measures we are taking:

- All employees must self-screen for illness, every day. Employees who are ill must remain at home.
- All clients are screened by phone before every home care visit. If the client screen is 'positive', our care provider puts on personal protective equipment for the visit and reports as required to VON management and to Public Health to determine next steps.
- VON home care providers are equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) and use it according to direction provided by Public Health. All VON front-line care providers wear a surgical mask and eye protection for any direct client care.
- At VON offices, clinics and locations where programs and services are delivered, we have increased infection prevention and control procedures and are following best practices to keep our clients and employees safe.
- To ensure our employees' safety, we are encouraging measures suitable to their roles. Where possible, they are practicing physical distancing. VON employees who can work from home are doing so.
- All VON employees are required to follow federal and provincial directives related to self-isolation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP US ALL STAY SAFE?

We all have an important role to play in ensuring that our families, friends, neighbours and health care workers remain healthy and safe. Here are some simple things you can do to keep yourself, your loved ones and your VON care provider safe:

- Check yourself and your household members for illness, with the help of government-provided screeners.
(Ontario: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0>
Nova Scotia: <https://when-to-call-about-covid19.novascotia.ca/en>)
- If you are a family or household member and are not involved in your loved one's care, please move to another room if you can, or maintain a physical distance (2m/6ft) while a VON care provider is in your home.
- Please practice good health hygiene. Cough or sneeze into your elbow and wash your hands with soap and water frequently for at least 20 seconds. Please remember to clean high-touch surfaces like counters, door handles, light switches and railings frequently.
- Practice physical distancing. Minimize contact with other people and stay a safe distance (2m/6ft) from other people. Limit your trips outside your home to what is essential (things like groceries or medication.)

For more information about coronavirus and COVID-19, please visit:

Province of Nova Scotia
Novascotia.ca/coronavirus

Province of Ontario:
Covid-19.ontario.ca

Government of Canada:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

For VON-specific information, please visit von.ca/en/covid-19