



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15th, 2020

YMCA OF CENTRAL EAST ONTARIO WORKS TO REDUCE THREAT OF COVID-19 SPREAD

Quinte West, ON – Under the guidance and direction of Hastings Prince Edward Public Health, the YMCA of Central East Ontario, has been actively working since September 1st to implement preventative measures to reduce the threat of COVID-19 spreading within the YMCA of the City of Quinte West.

We learned today that a staff member from the Quinte West Branch has tested positive for COVID-19. This transmission was a result of close contact with a family member. At this point Hastings Prince Edward Public Health has assessed the situation to be of low risk to members, staff and volunteers but an investigation is continuing to ensure the health and safety of all members of the community. We have activated our contact tracing protocols we have in place for members and staff who may have been in contact with the individual. We have also been in contact with our partner at the City of Quinte West.

“Since the beginning of this pandemic, the YMCA and Hastings Prince Edward Public Health have been in close contact, working together to ensure the safety of our YMCA members, participants, staff and volunteers” said David Allen, President and CEO of the YMCA of Central East Ontario.

The YMCA of Central East Ontario has modified some spaces and amenities to increase health and safety measure, as well as to ensure our valued members have a quality YMCA experience. That includes:

- Additional hand-sanitizing stations
- Removal of non-essential or difficult-to-clean equipment
- Reduced capacity, including an appointment-based system for all facility access.
- Plexi-glass barriers at Welcome, Membership and Weight Floor desks
- Health screenings prior to entry through a digital health screening tool
- Directional signage to control the flow of participants in certain areas of the building

- Contactless scan-in stations
- Physical distancing measures (including signage, floor markings and some unavailable or rotating equipment) to maintain maximum distance between users
- Equipment usage time limits
- Removal of lobby furniture
- Mandatory use of masks inside facilities as per local health unit regulations
- Staff available to assist you

The YMCA of Central East Ontario has instituted additional and more frequent cleaning procedures following the guidance of health authorities. These include:

- Increased frequency of high touch points (eg. door handles, elevator buttons, hand railings, light switches, toilet seats, taps)
- Regular and documented sanitization of common areas
- Employing hospital-grade disinfectant (Sany+ H2O2, Oxivir Plus, Vanguard)
- Electrostatic spray and fogger technology as additional steps if an area needs specific attention
- Disinfection Kits - to support internal cleaning practices, disinfection kits have been developed and made available to staff at all our facilities

“Our approach at all times, has been guided by local and provincial health officials. While all recommended protocols were in place, we continue to review our efforts to ensure a safe environment at our YMCA. We are grateful for the ongoing support and direction from local health agencies and our community. We will continue to work together to fight the spread of COVID-19” said Allen.