

## COVID-19

Dear DSYTC families, friends and stakeholders,

The safety and well-being of our clients and team members is always our ultimate priority, and I am incredibly proud of how the DSYTC team has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic to date. These are very trying times for all involved but I am confident that through our continued collective efforts, resilience and patience, better days are ahead.

Since the outset of the pandemic, we at the DSYTC have consulted extensively with public health experts, government officials and sector colleagues, and have implemented various risk mitigation measures accordingly. These measures have included:

- New screening protocols for prospective clients, staff and volunteers of the DSYTC.
- Various infection, prevent and control (IPAC) measures, including universal staff masking, hand sanitizer access (and other PPE) and enhanced cleaning protocols in all of our facilities.
- Reduced building occupancy and a shift to single occupancy bedrooms within our residential treatment sites.
- Increased use of technology and virtual care in our community-based aftercare and family counselling programs.
- Maximized physical distancing by way of adjustments to facility layout, recreation activities for clients and the cancelling/postponing of community events engaged in by staff.
- Additional signage posted and training provided pertaining to preventative measures such as appropriate hand washing and the proper donning/doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Other evidence-based policies, procedures and protocols to guide prevention efforts and response requirements should an outbreak arise.



Should the DSYTC ever experience an outbreak of COVID-19 and our residential facilities be required to temporarily close as a result, appropriate contingency plans would be made for all clients.

We understand that the isolation and distancing associated with our collective COVID-19 response can both cause, and exacerbate, addiction and mental health issues. Along with our sector partners, we will continue to do all we can to help those in need to the absolute best of our ability and capacity.

For those wishing to apply or refer, feel free to contact us at 613-594-8333 (Monday to Friday 0800-1600). Youth can also apply anytime online at: [www.davesmithcentre.org](http://www.davesmithcentre.org). No formal referral is required.

We will continue to monitor the situation very closely, consult with our health system partners and public health officials, and make any required adjustments to our approach.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the DSYTC. Wishing you and yours good health.

Sincerely,

Mike Beauchesne

*Executive Director*

Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre

*A Safe Place For A Fresh Start...*

**About the DSYTC:**

Established in 1993, the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre (DSYTC) is a non-profit, community-based agency dedicated to helping youth, between the ages of 13-21, overcome substance use, mental health and other related challenges in order to achieve a healthy lifestyle. Our programs and services include residential addiction and mental health treatment for young males and females, family support as well as assertive aftercare services. Primary care, psychiatric support, prosocial recreation and academic programming are also part of our core offering. To learn more about our cause, impact and programming, please visit our website: [www.davesmithcentre.org](http://www.davesmithcentre.org).