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April 6, 2020

Re: Use of Personally Sourced Masks and/or Homemade Masks

On April 6, 2020, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Theresa Tam, made public the recommendation of the Public Health Agency of Canada, that people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 wear non-medical masks when in public as an additional measure to protect other people due to a growing body of evidence that supports the possibility of asymptomatic transmission of the virus. She cautioned however, that wearing a mask has not been proven to protect the person wearing it from COVID-19 but can be an additional way to potentially protect others.

It is important to note, that at this time, Fife House has not been directed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, to adhere to this recommendation. However, in light of this recommendation Fife House has decided to amend direction to Fife House staff with respect to the use of personally sourced masks and/or homemade masks as follows:

Staff may use personally sourced masks and/or homemade masks during the course of their scheduled shift at Fife House provided there is strict adherence to the following:

1. Staff will continue to prioritize basic health hygiene as the best first line of defense against COVID-19:
 - a. wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol- based hand sanitizer if the former is not accessible
 - b. cough and sneeze into tissue or sleeve
 - c. practice physical distancing at all times (separation of at least 2 meters/6 feet)
2. If a staff person chooses to wear a homemade mask, the staff person must ensure that the mask does not result in increased face touching, loosening of social/physical distancing requirements or any other lapses in strict adherence to safety measures currently in place
3. The personally sourced mask and/or homemade mask will be thoroughly washed and dried following Toronto Public Health guidelines prior to each shift
4. If a client presents with any signs of illness, regardless of whether due to COVID-19 or otherwise, the staff member will don appropriate Fife House-provided medical grade PPE (surgical mask/gloves/goggles) etc. in keeping with current protocols
5. Staff must sign below indicating that they have read this document, agree to adhere to the requirements above and acknowledge the limitations of non-medical masks in preventing illness in the individual wearing the mask as described

I, the undersigned, agree to fulfill the requirements outlined above in the course of my employment at Fife House. Furthermore, I acknowledge that wearing a personally sourced and/or homemade mask is my personal choice and will not relieve me from any of the above safety precautions.

Name

Signature

Date

