

As you are aware we are all experiencing difficult times with the challenges of COVID-19 and not surprisingly, our Shelter is not exempt. The situation is changing day by day and we are doing our very best to keep you all in the loop.

One of the main challenges we are facing is balancing the health and safety of our volunteer community while at the same time keeping the Shelter running to provide the necessary emergency service to some of the most vulnerable within our city.

In order to help you assess if you are able to attend your volunteer shift a self-assessment tool can be found [here](#), and below are some general guidelines for you. The safety of our entire community is of the utmost importance to us, but please let's pull together during this difficult time. If you are **healthy** and able please continue to volunteer at the Shelter, we need your help more than ever.

Guidelines:

- **Please remain at home should you become ill or experience any COVID-19 symptoms.**
- Please contact Erica should you or somebody in your household be diagnosed with COVID-19 - esinger@southridgechurch.ca
- Please let Erica know if you have travelled out of the country and Southridge will discuss additional health precautions that may need to be implemented before you can return to your volunteer role at the Shelter.

Measures in place:

- Enhanced cleaning measures have been implemented onsite to prevent the spread of germs.
- We have implemented a screening tool for new residents, staff and volunteers attending the Shelter.
- Southridge Shelter has been and will continue to follow emergency plans to determine if further steps should be taken.
- We are moving to paper plates and plastic cutlery as soon as supplies arrive.
- There are several hand sanitizing stations, clearly marked throughout the Shelter and church; please use them frequently.

Additionally, we are asking everyone to comply with Niagara Health's recommended measures:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue or into your arm, not your hand.

Should anybody feel uncomfortable continuing in their volunteer role, please contact Erica Singer so we can make alternative arrangements

Thanks,

Samantha Kenny
Interim Shelter Director