



Lisa Duplessis
Director, Operations
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August 7, 2020

Dear Johnny,

As you may know, on March 13, 2020, under the direction of the City of Toronto and Toronto Public Health, we made the very difficult but necessary decision to close our building for public use. This meant that community led groups and external bookings could no longer occur in our space. We continued to deliver essential services for vulnerable communities; as well as essential virtual services including newcomer and refugee support, friendly phone program, and tax and legal clinics.

As of July 31st, the City of Toronto has entered Stage 3 – that permits businesses and organizations to reopen with modified operations including physical distancing and group size limitations, contact tracing obligations, wearing of masks in all public facilities and various other public health requirements to ensure safety and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID.

The 519 has completed a review of the Toronto Public Health [guidelines](#) and has begun to reopen a portion of our building with significant modified services. Our primary objective is to ensure that all health and safety measures are followed and the risk is minimized for our staff and communities. Currently we are only offering access to the building for support services such as newcomer, refugee and counselling by appointment only and community food drop-in programs are operating on-site but with physical distancing requirements and limited hours in place for the foreseeable future. Please see our website for more information at <https://www.the519.org/news/covid19-the519-info-updates>.

Despite the Province's decision to move to Stage 3, The 519 has a significant amount of work to do with regard to the planning and implementation of policies and processes to allow us to safely host external groups, meetings and special events in our space. Thus, we regrettably need to cancel all bookings through December 31, 2020, as we work through the process of developing a plan for expanded space-use.

We value the individuals, groups and organizations that hold their meetings, workshops and events here at The 519 and we want to keep you in the loop. We anticipate that when we are able to reopen the building for external bookings, there will be screening requirements that include the host managing the collection of information; liability waivers; application, contracts and registrations for space use; as well as limited number of people in the building at any one

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time. We will be reaching out again with more information about what space-use will look like into the future while the pandemic is occurring.

We will keep you posted in the coming months. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at KWilliamsClarke@The519.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lisa D' followed by a horizontal line.