



March 19, 2020

YSM is standing with our community members during this unusual time. To ensure the health and safety of all, and under the direction of Public Health safety protocols, YSM's program buildings are closed to public access. However, starting Thursday, March 19, 2020, until further notice, we will be providing food services at our program locations: The Evergreen Centre and The Davis Centre.

**THE EVERGREEN CENTRE:** 365 Spadina Avenue  
Take-out lunch available from 12:00 – 2:00, Monday to Friday.

Snacks and coffee available from 12:00 – 4:30, Monday to Friday

If you need supplies, mental health support or to speak with an employment counsellor, safety measures will be taken before limited entry to the building is permitted. Check in at the front entrance between 12:00 and 4:30 pm Monday – Friday and let us know how we can help.

**THE DAVIS CENTRE:** 270 Gerrard Street East  
Bagged groceries will be distributed to YSM Food Bank clients at your regularly scheduled food bank appointment.

Emergency Food Packages (that you can cook at home) will be distributed daily to community members in need without appointments, from 10:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 3:00, from Tuesday to Friday.

Ready-to-Eat Take out meals will be available from 4:00 – 5:00 every Tuesday and Thursday.

If you are looking to speak with a staff member or looking for additional support, call 416-929-9614 x3200. A YSM staff person will answer the phone during regular business hours to assist you. If you are ill and require medical attention, please call Telehealth at 1-866-797-0000

Please check back often to learn about updates and changes to our services. We are committed to your wellbeing and will be here for you so long as we are permitted by Public Health.

Thank you.



March 16, 2020

At YSM our highest priority is the safety of the community members we serve and the staff who support them. We know that vulnerable people will be most adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19 therefore we are taking extra emergency precautions to protect and serve our community at this time.

- Effective at 5:00 p.m today, Yonge Street Mission (YSM) will be closing all programs and access to our buildings until End of Day Wednesday, March 18th in an effort to make appropriate plans to contain the spread of COVID-19 while continuing to offer essential services to our community members.
- Please check back often as we will communicate our modified service delivery plans as soon as they are available, no later than the end of the day on March 18th.
- Given these measures, all volunteer shifts are cancelled until April 5th. We will communicate any further decisions or volunteer needs regularly, so please check back often.

To our community members, please know that we are thinking of you, your health and well-being as we arrange to serve and support you during this unusual time.



March 12, 2020

At YSM our most important priority is the wellbeing of our guests, volunteers, donors, community members and staff. Above all, this will guide all of our decisions as we proactively and responsibly respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

At this time, we are following recommendations shared by public health experts and reevaluating and updating our procedures as needed. As of today, the risk of local community transmission is low and we have no reason to believe the virus is present in our community. However, we are taking extra steps to ensure proper care, should the virus become more widespread through our city.

Please note:

- All of our programs are running as normal.
- We are still moving forward with all scheduled volunteer shifts and visits with YSM.

What is YSM doing to keep our visitors safe?

We are implementing the following enhanced measures to minimize the risk of transmission while maintaining life-saving services. Currently, we are:

1. Monitoring the situation daily, and updating our responses as needed, in consultation with [Public Health](#), YSM's Joint Health and Safety Committee and Health Centre staff.
2. Practicing enhanced disinfection measures in all public areas including hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, gloves and masks provided across all YSM buildings and public areas.
3. Ensuring staff, volunteers and student placements, visitors and community members are practicing everyday preventive actions.
4. Ensuring that all staff members stay home if they have fever, cough or difficulty breathing.

If you are a volunteer and concerned about your shift, we ask that you speak with your supervisor. If you are feeling unwell or are sick, we respectfully ask that you stay home. Please visit your VolunteerHub account and cancel your shift(s).

During this season of uncertainty, I invite you to join us in praying for those affected by COVID-19 and for the protection of our community. Thank you for your continued care.

Sincerely,  
Angie Peters