

TORONTO SHELTER BULLETIN

Bulletin No.: 2025-03

Date Issued: March 28, 2025

Bulletin Type:	General Update
Subject:	Continued Commitment to Harm Reduction in Toronto Shelters and 24-Hour Respite Sites
Bulletin:	<p>Please ensure that this Bulletin is shared with all relevant staff as soon as possible and that a hard copy of this document is posted in a highly visible area for ongoing reference.</p> <p>Toronto Shelter and Support Services remains committed to our collective efforts to harm reduction and the support of individuals who use drugs within Toronto's shelter system. While the Ontario government's Community Care and Recovery Act will lead to the closure of five supervised consumption sites and two shelter Urgent Public Health Needs sites in Toronto, we want to emphasize that this change will not alter the ongoing efforts within the shelter system to provide harm reduction services.</p> <p>Shelter and respite site staff are reminded to follow Toronto Shelter Standards, Section 10.2.1 Harm Reduction and 24-Hour Respite Site Standards, Section 8.3.1 to ensure that harm reduction remains a foundational principle in supporting our most vulnerable residents. This commitment includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing harm reduction supplies such as safer-use kits and naloxone• Maintaining a non-punitive approach to substance use within shelters• Ensuring all staff are trained in overdose prevention, recognition, and response• Connecting clients to necessary resources and support to promote safety and well-being• Not prohibiting or confiscating life-saving medications, safer drug use supplies, safer sex products, or personal property, including substances• Ensuring the safe disposal of all sharps

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As we face the closure of these critical services, the role of shelters and respites in providing harm reduction support has never been more important. We continue to rely on and thank you for your dedication to offering these vital services to those who need them most.

Resources: [Funding Submissions, Directives & Bulletins – City of Toronto](#)

Contact Information: For more information about this Bulletin, please contact your Agency Review Officer.