

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 2020
TO: Long-term Care Providers and Assisted Living Providers
FROM: Carmela Veza, Operations Director Long-term Care
RE: COVID-19

The COVID-19 situation continues to change quickly, with a number of new developments since the Island Health Memorandum dated March 12, 2020.

Visitors

The Provincial Health Officer and Ministry of Health have now advised that Long-term Care facilities are to restrict visitors to essential visits only. This is in addition to the requirement to restrict anyone from entering the facility with respiratory symptoms and anyone who has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days.

Assisted Living Facilities should also consider how to similarly restrict visitors.

COVID-19 Guidelines

Guidelines for prevention of COVID-19 and response to potential cases or outbreaks within a facility are now posted on the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/clinical-care/long-term-care-facilities-assisted-living>

Please review and follow the guidance within this document.

Staffing

Operators are advised to develop an approach that will reduce the likelihood that staff working within their facility are also working in other facilities. This approach is generally required during communicable disease outbreaks, and it is advisable now in order to reduce the likelihood of spread should an outbreak of COVID-19 occur within another facility in your community.

Operators should also have in place, contingency plans for staffing should an outbreak occur that results in a substantial number of staff not being able to work.

Long-term Care

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