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| **TO:** | Long-term Care Physicians and Nurse Practitioners | **DATE:** | April 3, 2020 |
| **FROM:** | Carmela Vezza Operations DirectorDr. Margaret Manville, Medical Director Long-term Care |
| **RE:** | **Island Health Strategy to Cohort COVID-19 Infected LTC Residents** |

Under the direction of the Medical Health Officer, Island Health has developed a strategy to cohort COVID-19 infected LTC residents to reduce spread in LTC facilities.

Should a resident test positive (confirmed case) they will be transferred to a COVID-19 cohort unit in acute care at either RJH, NRGH or CVH, regardless of their MOST status. This will be a direct admit, by-passing the emergency department.

Upon confirmation of a COVID-19 infected resident, the Most Responsible nurse will:

• Notify MRP, family or next of kin, and on-call manager if after hours.

• Call the ambulance, making them aware of the need for a transfer of a COVID-19 infected resident.

Ambulance will be aware of the closest COVID-19 cohort unit.

We realize that this is a departure from previous messaging, in which keeping COVID-19 infected residents in their LTC home was the treatment plan. However, evidence from around the world supports cohorting infected patients away from the uninfected. It provides safety for other residents, and allows properly protected, supported and trained staff to deliver care.

We will be communicating this new plan to our patients and families in the coming days.