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November 4, 2021

To: Vancouver Island Division of Family Practice Executive Directors

From: Dr. Margaret Manville

Sent on behalf of Dr. Margaret Manville, Island Health Medical Director of Long-term Care

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to long-term care during this pandemic. I've been heartened by the way our community has pulled together and continued to provide excellent medical care for our residents during these difficult times. Your commitment and perseverance in the face of uncertainty has not gone unnoticed, and it is very much appreciated. I'm writing to you today regarding virtual and in-person visits, in order to clarify expectations for those who practice in long-term care. On September 3rd the [attached memo](#) was sent to all Family Physicians jointly from the Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Health, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC iterating support for return to in-person care. With this in mind, I'm writing to you today to confirm and endorse that the standard for long-term care is in-person visits. Virtual (phone, fax, video) care is a useful supplement to proactive and necessary visits; however, it does not replace in-person attendance. LTC physicians are an integral component of the team in long-term care homes. Your reliable, predictable attendance on site further strengthens the multi-disciplinary team environment, facilitating excellent patient care. As always, thank you for your ongoing dedication to long-term care and the residents in our community.

Warmly,

Margaret
Dr. Margaret Manville, FCFP, Care of the Elderly
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