

COVID-19

12/03/2020

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Preventing the Introduction and Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care & Assisted Living – 5 Critical Factors

What is happening?

With the recent increase of COVID-19 cases in the community, the Prevention Assessment Team (formerly auditors) are reminding Long-Term Care (LTC) and Assisted Living (AL) homes of the importance of focusing on the following **5 critical factors**.

Why?

Increasing focus on the 5 critical factors will help prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 into facilities:

- Visible Clinical Leadership (e.g. leading staff safety huddles etc.)
- Maintain Safe Staffing Levels to Provide Quality Care
- Active Screening of Staff (twice per shift)
- Active Screening of Residents/Tenants
- Correct Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Friendly Reminders

In addition to these five critical factors, gaps have been identified during recent site assessments in the following areas:

- **Regular Audits:** complete regular audits as per Infection Prevention and Control guidelines for hand hygiene, PPE, environmental cleaning, and decluttering to reduce transmission risk
- **Break Rooms/Staff Rooms:** staff must wear medical masks at all times, including in break rooms and change areas, except when eating or drinking. Staff must maintain 2 metres distance from others in these areas
- **Dining:** stagger dining times and maintain physical distancing for residents and tenants during dining (2 metres)

Ensure that all staff are reminded to follow Public Health Orders while outside the workplace by avoiding situations (e.g. gatherings, etc.) that put themselves and residents at risk.

For more information

Contact covid.ltc.al@fraserhealth.ca

(

)

)

Sent on behalf of the Fraser Health Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Coordination Centre

November 19, 2020

***NEW* Emergency Department Transfers to LTC/AL**

- Please see *attached* KYI clarifying swab results criteria for clients returning from necessary visits to Emergency Department, when not admitted

***NEW* Town Hall Agenda**

- Please see *attached* agenda for Town Hall on November 24th

***UPDATE* Enhanced Prevention and Education Support**

- We are moving forward with a greater focus on prevention and education
- Cycle 3 reviews have commenced as of November 17
- In order to ensure timely assessment of all sites, reviews will not be scheduled. Sites will be contacted the morning of the review.
- The goal of the assessment is to ensure infection prevention and control and best practices are in place to protect staff and residents from COVID-19
- The assessment will also flag gaps where further education support is required
- Results from reviews will be reported daily to the LTCL Coordination Centre
- Note that pending swabs is not a barrier to assessors visiting sites to complete an assessment. **As previously, prevention assessments will not be completed during an outbreak**

***NEW* Clinical Protocol: COVID-19 People living with Dementia: Prevention and Spread**

- *Attached* protocol provides guidance to support:
 - residents with neurocognitive impairment who may have difficulty following infection prevention control measures
 - transitional care planning for new residents moving in who may be unable to follow 14-day self-isolation protocol
- This protocol was developed using the best evidence at this time and may be subject to change. Please submit any feedback for the protocol to anita.wahl@fraserhealth.ca

()

)

)

Sent on behalf of the Fraser Health Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Coordination Centre

December 3, 2020

***REVISED* Ministry of Health Policy on admissions, transfers, in-facility respite**

- *Attached* KYI and revised algorithm reflecting new Ministry of Health restrictions on admissions, transfers and in-facility respite to intolerable risk only

***REVISED* Visitation Table**

- *Attached* visitation table with the following revisions:
 - Window Visits added with Virtual Visits
 - Essential Visits to Support Care Needs revised – now indicates caution pertaining to this when a site is in Outbreak as essential visits to support care needs will be reassessed when a site is on outbreak. The Outbreak Response Lead will consult with site leadership and Public Health/Medical Health Officer for appropriate approval.
- Guidelines on pets are under development and will be distributed in a future update

***NEW* Town Hall**

- *Attached* Town Hall Presentation and Q & A from November 24th
- *Attached* Town Hall agenda for December 8th

***NEW* Holiday Season Activities**

- *Attached* KYI on precautions and acceptable practices for holiday activities

***NEW* Holiday Season Activities**

- *Attached* documents on notification for Home Support of site outbreak (only applicable to AL and IL)

***REVISED* COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Framework Interim Guidance for LTC, AL and MHSU Facilities**

- *Attached* is a revised version of this document. Changes include:
 - **Cohort Section (pg. 2):** New wording
 - Do not place more than two laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patients in a multi-bed room (MBR) without consulting IPC
 - **N95 Respirator Section (pg. 5):** New Wording
 - If there are more than two positive COVID-19 patients in a Multi-Bed Room, due to capacity/space limitations, the decision about additional measures such as the use of an N95 respirator will be decided on a case by case basis based on a risk assessment by IPC and MHO

***NEW* Preventing the Introduction and Spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care & Assisted Living – 5 Critical Factors**

- *Attached* KYI from the Prevention Assessment Team (formerly auditors)

(

)

)

What to Expect if Outbreak is Not Declared After Identification of a COVID-19 Positive Case

What's Happening?

- MHO **may not** declare a COVID-19 Outbreak if there is no indication of transmission or widespread exposure, based on a public health risk assessment
- Sites will be informed of any COVID-19 cases at their facilities and must take the proactive measures that are outlined in the LTC/AL COVID-19 Resource Toolkit checklist while awaiting further Public Health direction.
- Enhanced monitoring and infection control measures will be put in place by Public Health
 - Every opportunity will be taken to focus measures to only areas of risk

How Does This Affect You?

- During enhanced monitoring, facilities will continue to be supported by Public Health for questions and guidance. A number of infection control measures will apply. Information related to these control measures can be found in the relevant sections of the LTC/AL COVID-19 Toolkit:
 - Swabbing (*COVID-19 Testing*)
 - Isolation/droplet precautions to those who are exposed
 - Screening of residents/tenants & staff (*Fraser Health COVID-19 Screening Process*)
 - Enhanced cleaning (*Housekeeping Quick Reference: Enhanced Cleaning during COVID-19*)
 - Stopping visitation/group activities
- **Specific measures** sites should apply on unit where a COVID-19 positive case had contact (the affected unit):
 - Actively screen residents/tenants and staff to identify further cases and report promptly using Tool 27 (resident/tenant) or Tool 28 (staff); testing/isolation of all who are symptomatic
 - Residents/tenants cared for by an affected staff member placed on isolation/droplet precautions
 - Stop all communal/group activities on the affected unit
 - Tray service for all residents/tenants on the affected unit
 - Stop all social visitation to the affected unit
 - Stop all admissions/transfers to the affected unit

The measures above may be modified at the discretion of the Medical Health Officer

Support:

- When Public Health staff connect with the site, they will outline what to expect while a facility is on enhanced monitoring and guidance on communication for families/staff
- Public Health staff will be available during initial days after a case is identified to address any questions that the site has
- Sites continue to monitor for new cases for 14 days from last exposure while applying measures recommended by Public Health. After the initial couple days after a case is identified and measures are applied, Public Health staff will be available for consultation on an as-needed basis.
- Public Health staff will connect with sites at the end of the 14-day monitoring period to advise on further follow-up
- Ensure adequate PPE supplies, refer to *How to Access PPE Supplies* in LTC/AL COVID-19 Toolkit
- For staffing concerns, refer to *Staffing Support* in the LTC/AL COVID-19 Toolkit

Questions?

Please submit via the online inquiry form to the LTC/AL Coordination Centre

For suspected cases, please contact Public Health at COVIDLTCHub@fraserhealth.ca

()

()

()

COVID-19

December 17, 2020

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Enhanced monitoring: Update on exposures of COVID-19 in long-term care and assisted living sites

What is happening?

- The provincial approach to COVID-19 exposures in long-term care and assisted living has been updated and Fraser Health will be aligning with this approach to COVID-19 exposures and outbreaks, as outlined by the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Ministry of Health.
- The Medical Health Officer (MHO) will declare a COVID-19 outbreak at a site when evidence of COVID-19 **transmission** is found.
- When there is a single, low-risk case of COVID-19 with no evidence of transmission at a site (i.e. a COVID-19 exposure), the Medical Health Officer will not declare an outbreak and the facility will be placed on enhanced monitoring. During enhanced monitoring, Public Health will provide guidance to manage the exposure, and enhanced infection prevention and control measures will be put in place at the site.

How does this affect you?

- During enhanced monitoring, facilities will continue to be supported by Public Health for questions and guidance. This will not change. A number of infection prevention and control measures will apply. Information related to these control measures can be found in the relevant sections of the LTC/AL COVID-19 Toolkit:
 - Swabbing (*COVID-19 Testing*)
 - Isolation/droplet precautions for those who are exposed
 - Screening of residents/tenants and staff (*Fraser Health COVID-19 Screening Process*)
 - Enhanced cleaning (*Housekeeping Quick Reference: Enhanced Cleaning during COVID-19*)
 - Stopping social visits/group activities
- **Specific measures** sites should apply on unit where a COVID-19 exposure occurred (the affected unit):
 - Actively screen residents/tenants and staff to identify further cases and report promptly using Tool 27 (resident/tenant) or Tool 28 (staff); testing/isolation of all who are symptomatic
 - Residents/tenants cared for by an affected staff member placed on isolation/droplet precautions
 - Stop all communal/group activities on the affected unit
 - Tray service for all residents/tenants' meals on the affected unit
 - Stop all social visitation to the affected unit
 - Stop all admissions/transfers to the affected unit
 - The measures above may be modified at the discretion of the Medical Health Officer.

- **Support:**

- When Public Health staff connect with the site, they will outline what to expect while a facility is on enhanced monitoring, and provide guidance on communication for families/staff
- Public Health staff will be available during initial days after a case is identified to address any questions that the site has. If further transmission is identified, more intensive measures, including declaration of an outbreak, will occur
- Sites will continue to monitor for new cases for 14 days from last exposure while applying measures recommended by Public Health. After the initial couple of days after a case is identified and measures are applied, Public Health staff will be available for consultation on an as-needed basis
- Public Health staff will connect with sites at the end of the 14-day monitoring period to advise on further follow-up
- Sites should ensure adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies and refer to *How to Access PPE Supplies* in the LTC/AL COVID-19 Toolkit
- For staffing concerns, refer to *Staffing Support* in the LTC/AL COVID-19 Toolkit.

Questions?

Please submit via the [online inquiry form](#) to the LTC/AL Coordination Centre
For suspected cases, please contact Public Health at COVIDLTCHub@fraserhealth.ca