

# Interior Health

## GRAND ROUNDS

### COVID-19 Response - Long Term Care

Presenters:

- Dr. Douglas Smith, EMD Long Term Care, Palliative and End of Life, MAiD
- Dr. Silvina Mema, Medical Health Officer
- Karyn Morash, ED, Seniors Specialized Care Transformation
- Brent Hobbs, Network Director, Patient Transportation Services
- Dr. Trevor Janz, RMD Long Term Care, Palliative and End of Life, IH East

**Please call in to the teleconference for audio at:**

***1-855-353-9183***

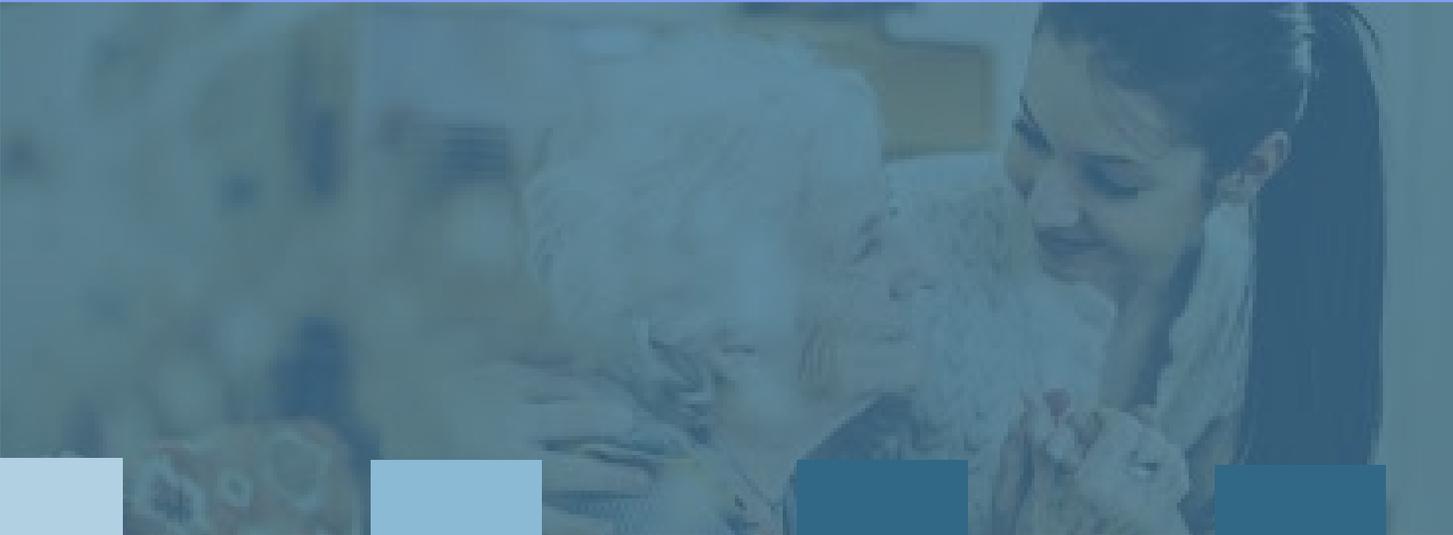
***participant passcode 29748#***



**Interior Health**  
*Every person matters*



# Presentation Overview



01

COVID-19  
in LTC

Dr. Doug Smith

02

MHO Orders  
& Transfers

Dr. Silvina Mema

03

LTC Facilities  
& Staff Response

Karyn Morash

04

Patient  
Transport

Brent Hobbs

05

Role of the  
Physician

Dr. Doug Smith

06

Questions  
& Answers

Panel



# COVID-19 in Long Term Care within Canada



## Canada

### Canada Wide LTC Outbreaks

- 79% of all coronavirus-related deaths have been in Long Term Care
  - Frail elderly LTC residents with co-morbidities are at highest risk
- Data per Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada*

## BC

### BC LTC Outbreaks

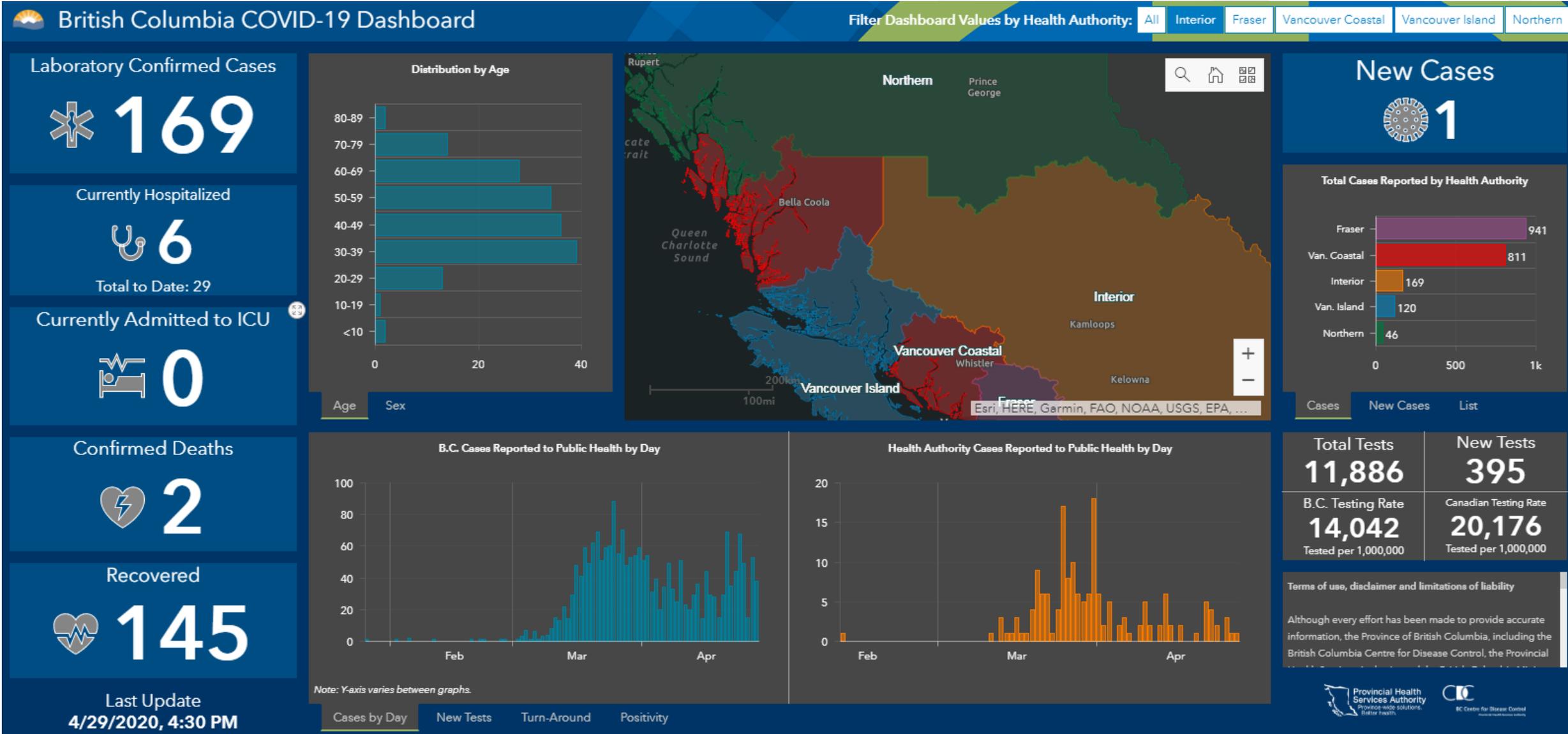
- 21 LTC / AL facilities with current COVID-19 outbreaks (and 13 declared over)
  - Median age of people who have died in BC is 86
- Data per Bonnie Henry, BC Provincial Health Officer*

## IH

### IH LTC Current Status

- 89 LTC /Hospice facilities within IH
- 1 LTC facility with current outbreak – 1 staff member; no spread to date
- 1 LTC facility with outbreak declared over by MHO – 1 staff member; no spread

# BC CDC COVID-19 Dashboard (IH Data)





# What we know about COVID-19 in LTC...



## Effects

### Effects of COVID-19 on the Frail Elderly

- Approx. 8-13% mortality for those in 70s and 15-20% for those over 80
- Limited benefit for LTC residents to go to hospital for treatment of COVID-19
- Acute care environment may be detrimental given level of frailty

## Priority

### Top Priorities in LTC Settings

- Ensure YOUR safety
- Ensure safety of others
- Ensure high standards of appropriate care for LTC residents

## Action

### Best Courses of Action in Long Term Care

- Preparations for care in place during an outbreak
- Treatment of COVID-19 is supportive and symptomatic
- Serious illness conversations with residents and families where appropriate
- Follow Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST) for residents

# Provincial Health Officer Orders in LTC

## LTC & AL Operators Guidance

March 20<sup>th</sup> - LTC Facility Operators measures to minimize risk of exposure including:

- enhanced cleaning and disinfection
- enhanced surveillance via symptom screening
- reducing movement of residents within /between facilities
- restricting visitors to essential/end of life
- reporting to MHO single incidence of influenza like illness

## Movement Limitation of LTC Facility Staff

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Restricts staff in Long Term Care and Assisted Living to working at a single site to reduce and contain potential spread of COVID-19

## LTC Facility Staff Assignment

April 15<sup>th</sup> – Provides guidance with regard to assignment of staff to a facility to allow the facilities to provide the level of care necessary to protect the health and safety of the residents



Adrian Dix, BC Health Minister  
Bonnie Henry, BC Provincial Health Officer



# Ministry of Health Guidance - Admits to LTC/AL

## Admissions to LTC / AL

April 27<sup>th</sup> – Admission from Community to LTC and AL Facilities may resume as per previous waitlist and health authority processes.

Continue to prioritize admissions from Acute care settings.

All admissions to LTC / AL from community must:

- Adhere to local & provincial Infection Prevention & Control procedures
- New admits from community placed in isolation 14 days
- Preferentially admitted to single occupancy room
- OR semi-private room with curtain drawn and min 2 metres between residents

Where a facility is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak

- All admissions are restricted per direction of IH MHO



Adrian Dix, BC Health Minister  
Bonnie Henry, BC Provincial Health Officer



# Patient/Resident Inter-Facility Transfers

## IH MHO Requirements



*“Refrain from transferring a resident to any other health care facility, including without limitation another LTC facility or a hospital (...) without prior notice to and authorization of the MHO or delegate. “*

### Why call the MHO?

**MHO will do a risk assessment and will approve, decline or put conditions on the transfer**

IH MHOs Memo: [Requirements for Patient/Resident Inter-Facility Transfers \(updated April 18, 2020\)](#)



For Notice to and Authorization by MHO:

Communicable Disease Unit (CDU) Daily 08:30-16:30 1-866-778-7736

MHO after hours 1-866-457-5648



# Transfers: LTC to Acute

**In Emergency**  
Life & limb  
first priority



## **Emergency Transfers:**

**Should NOT be delayed**  
**MHO pre-approval NOT required**

- Inform Acute site & BC Ambulance
  - facility outbreak status
  - resident COVID-19 status
- Notify MHO as soon as reasonably possible

**Non-Urgent**  
Ensure  
medically  
necessary



## **Non-Emergent Transfers:**

Where transfer is medically necessary  
as per MRP:

- Call MHO for approval
- Follow routine booking practice
- Inform Acute facility & BC Ambulance
  - facility outbreak status
  - resident COVID-19 status

**Same Day Transfers to and back from Acute Care for Appointments do not require MHO approval**



# Same Day Transfers for Acute Appointments

**Medically  
Essential**



**Notify  
Precautions  
&  
Physical  
distancing**

**Same day medically essential / recurring treatments that cannot be deferred or modified do not require MHO approval as long as the following conditions are met:**

- Facility does not have an outbreak
- Resident is asymptomatic
- Transport & acute staff maintain precautions at all times
- Transferred directly to appropriate department and back to LTC
- If no exposure during visit, return to LTC facility without 14 days isolation
- Potential breaches reported immediately to MHO

**MRP to determine if appointment is essential:**

Inform Patient Transport & Acute

- LTC facility outbreak status
- Resident COVID-19 status

*Follow physical distancing and PPE protocols: physical distancing maintained throughout treatment/appointment (two metres from all others including visitors and other patients)*



# Transfer/Repatriation to Non-Outbreak LTC

**Confirm  
COVID  
negative**



**MHO Approval  
Isolation  
&  
Appropriate  
Precautions**

## **Patient does NOT have symptoms of COVID-19**

- Ensure asymptomatic or negative test prior to admission
- Call MHO for approval if no single room available to accommodate, or if any other issue
- Single person room 14 days
- Monitor for symptoms
- Routine PPE (mask, eye protection, gloves)

## **Patient is symptomatic or suspected of COVID-19 or awaiting test results**

- Typically will not be approved to return/be admitted to the facility
- Call MHO for approval before transfer
- Cannot transfer until COVID ruled out
- Monitor for symptoms
- Droplet and contact precautions

## **Known positive case of COVID-19**

- Typically will not be approved
- Call MHO before transfer
- Criteria will be:  
Resolution of fever without fever-reducing meds  
AND  
Improvement of symptoms before testing  
AND  
2 negative tests 24 hours apart



# Repatriation to Outbreak LTC

## Consult MHO



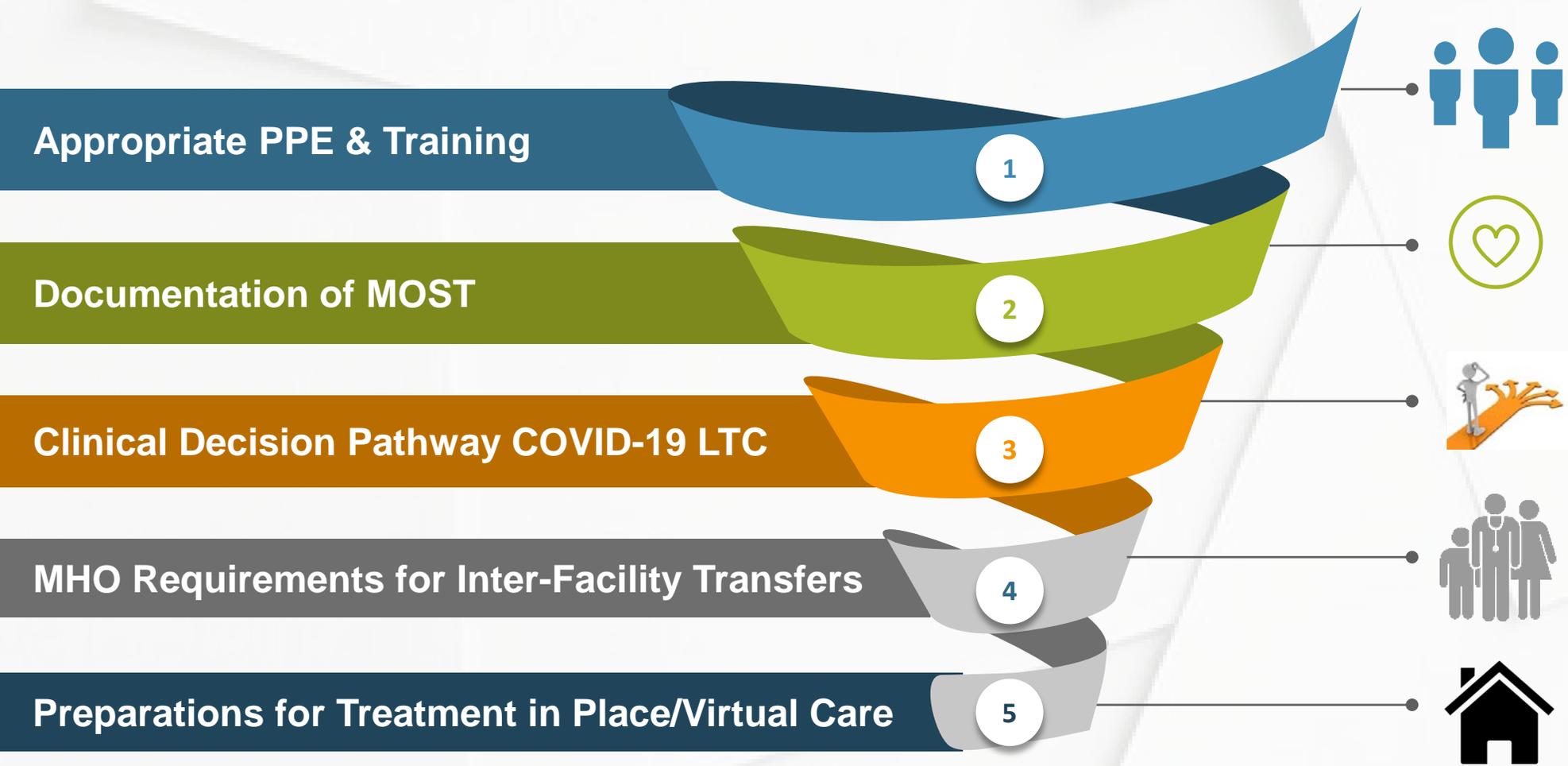
Residents transferred to acute care from a facility that has a COVID-19 outbreak may return to their home facility if clinically appropriate after discussion with the MHO

All other transfers will not be approved by the MHO

*Any exception to the above recommendations, in response to a critical need for inpatient bed, is to be reviewed with the MHO*

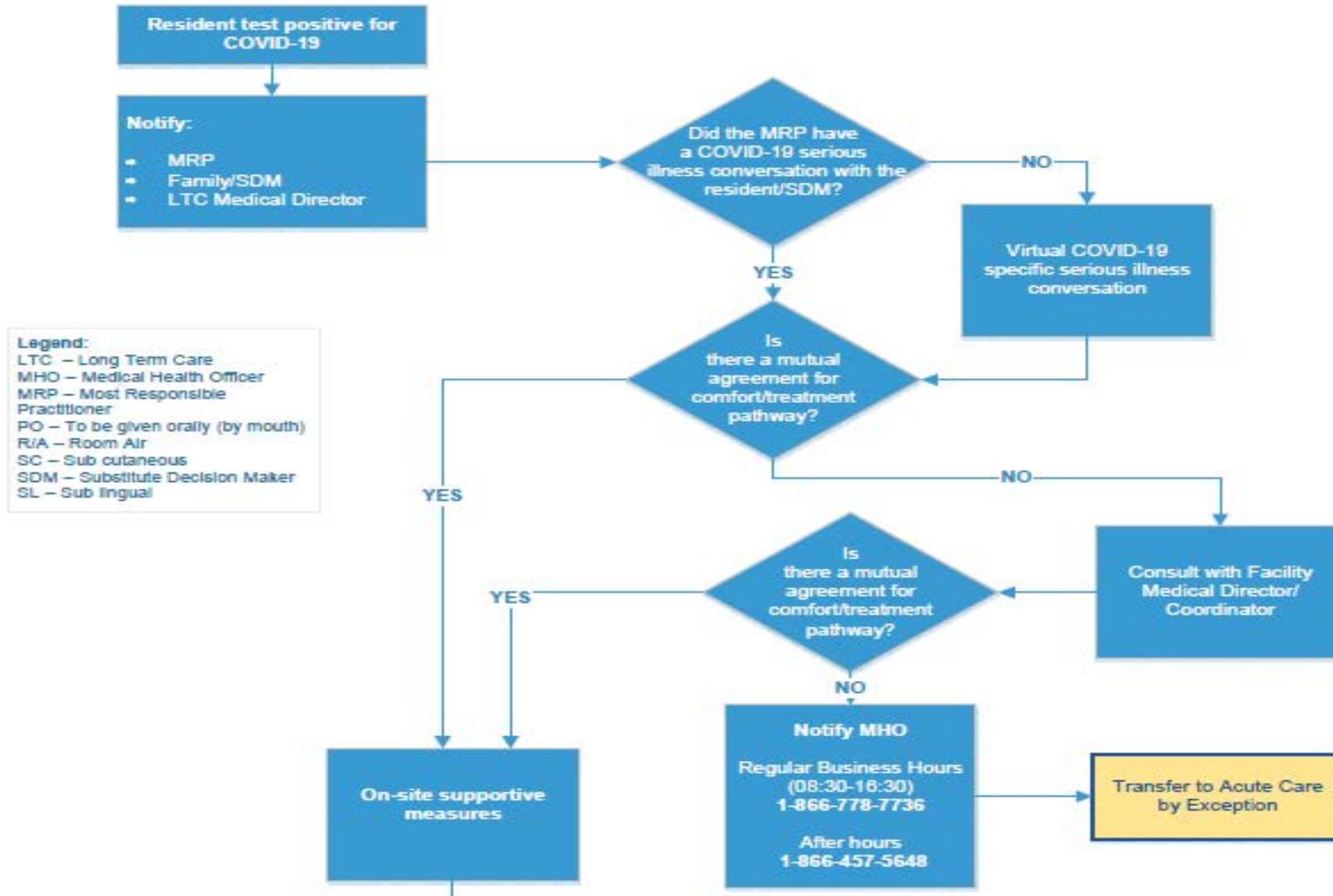


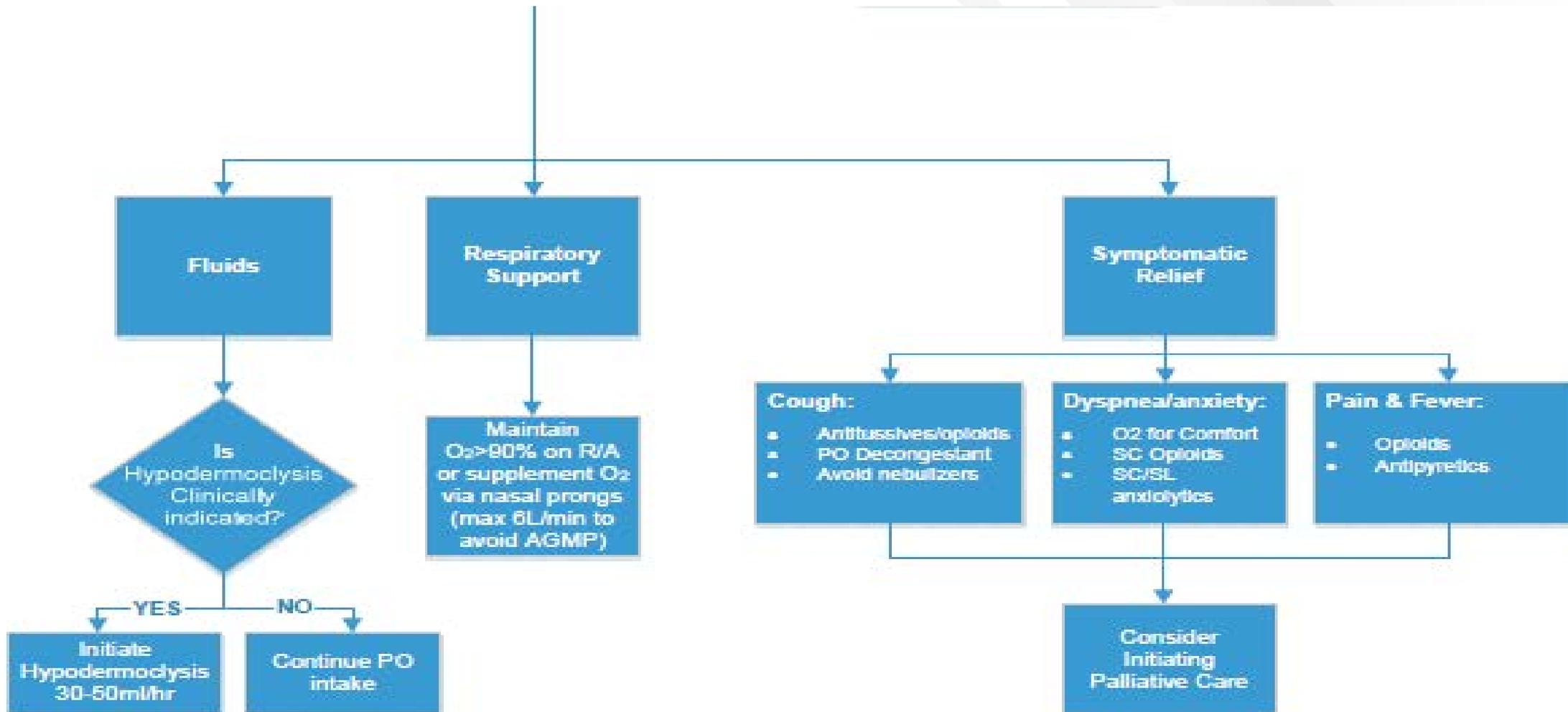
# Preparations & Planning in LTC



## Clinical Decision Pathway COVID-19 in LTC Residents

This algorithm assumes Public Health Authorities are involved and are coordinating outbreak in facility, and is meant to aid clinicians to manage care of residents with COVID-19 LTC





IH-PH-COV-360 12APR2020



# Patient Transport / 911 Algorithm

## Emergency Transfers

- Risk to life and limb transfers expedited
- MHO pre-approval not required
- Notify MHO as soon as possible

## Medically Appropriate Transfers

- MOST status considered / Clinical Care Pathway followed
- Treat patient in place whenever appropriate
- MRP clinical judgement for transfer requests

## Provincial 911 Algorithm/Protocols

- Caller asked COVID screening questions
- Caller redirected to consult MRP where criteria not met







# 911 Emergency Response Criteria

**PURPLE** (immediately life threatening)  
e.g. Cardiac / Respiratory Arrest

**RED** (life threatening or time critical)  
e.g. Hot Stoke, Cardiac Chest Pain

**ORANGE** (urgent/potentially serious)  
e.g. Fall, Diabetic Shock





# Role of the MRP in LTC

1

Ensure safety of yourself and others

Use appropriate PPE

Follow precautions

2

Ensure appropriate care of residents

Use sound clinical judgement

3

Consider reduction of risk

Ensure availability

Treat in place

Transfer when necessary

4

Consider resident plan of care

Serious illness conversations

MOST documented

Phone/virtual visits

5

Treat in Place

Identify supply needs

Provide on-site care

6

House Physician Model

“House Physicians” for outbreak protocols

Single facility where possible

Provide contact numbers

7

Notify MHO

Notify of all transfers

Pre-approval of non-emergent transfers

Consult as required



# Questions & Answers...



# Spectrum App

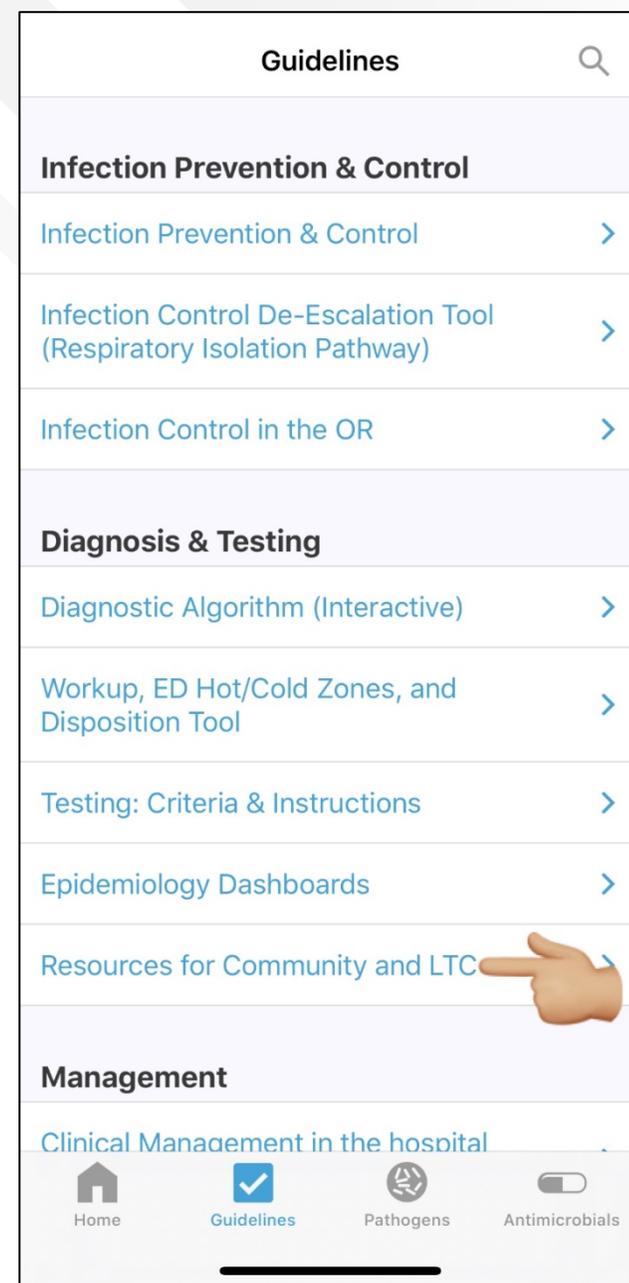
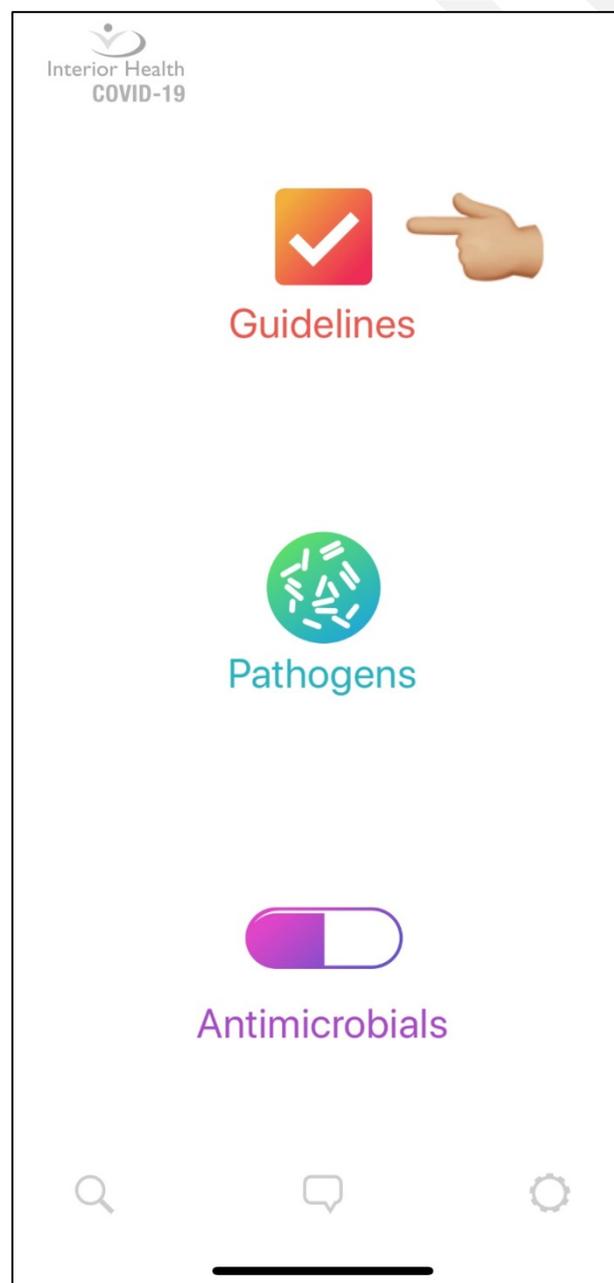
For devices:

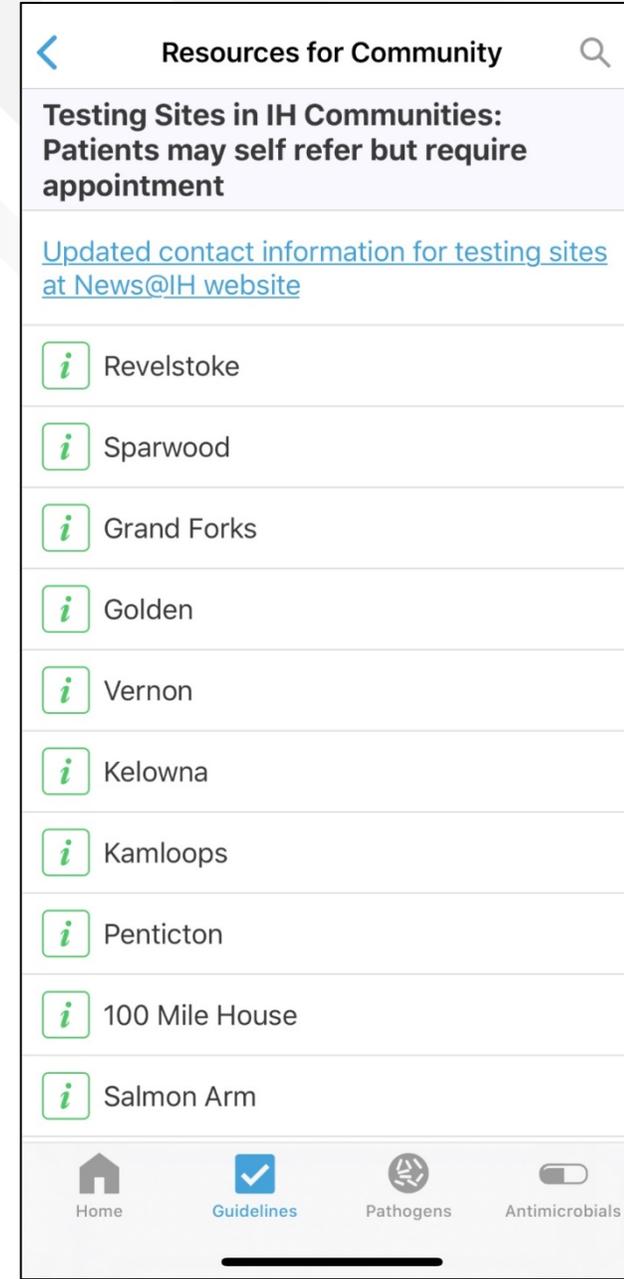
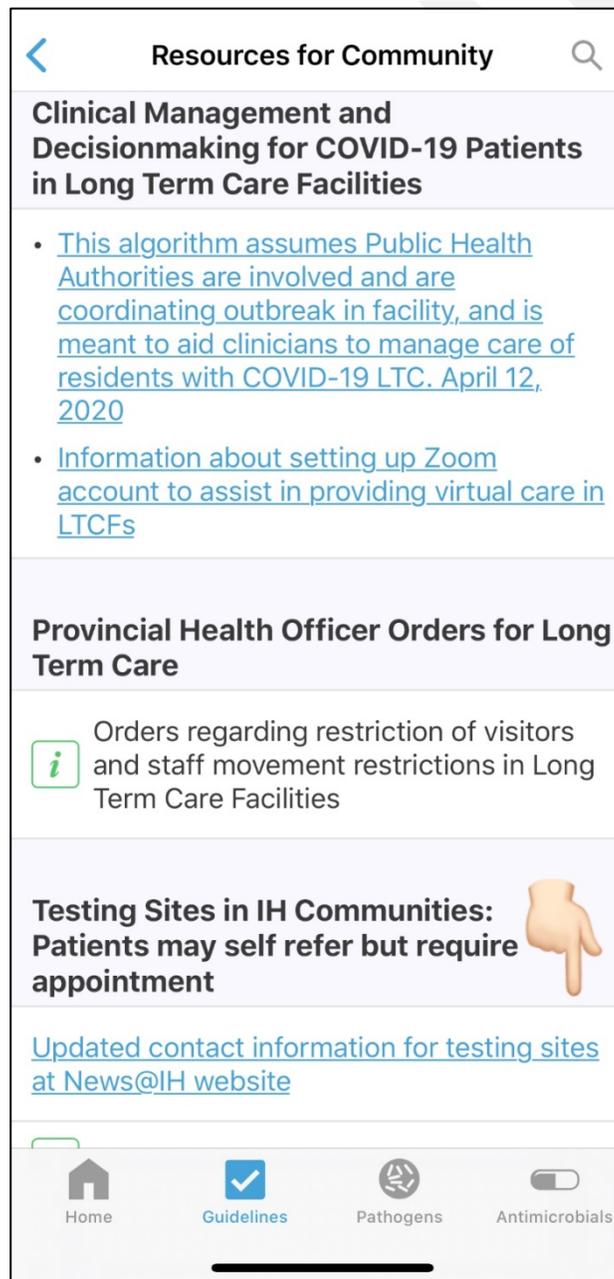
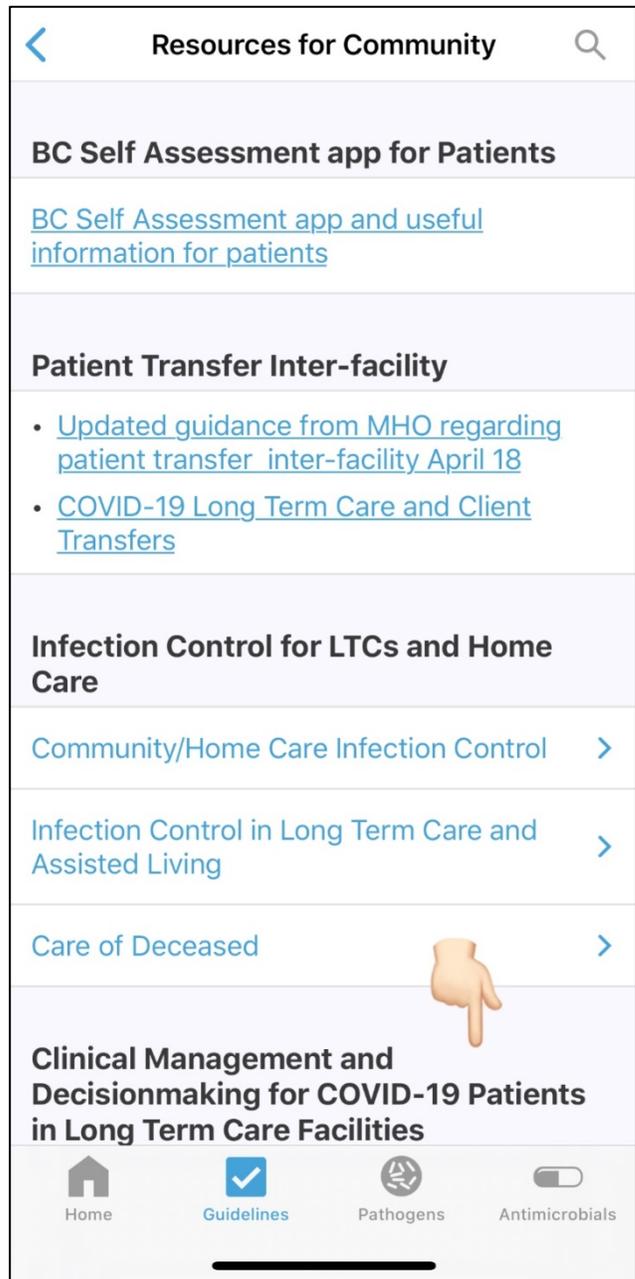
- Go to app store
- Download Spectrum ID
- Select “IH” as location

For laptops/computers:

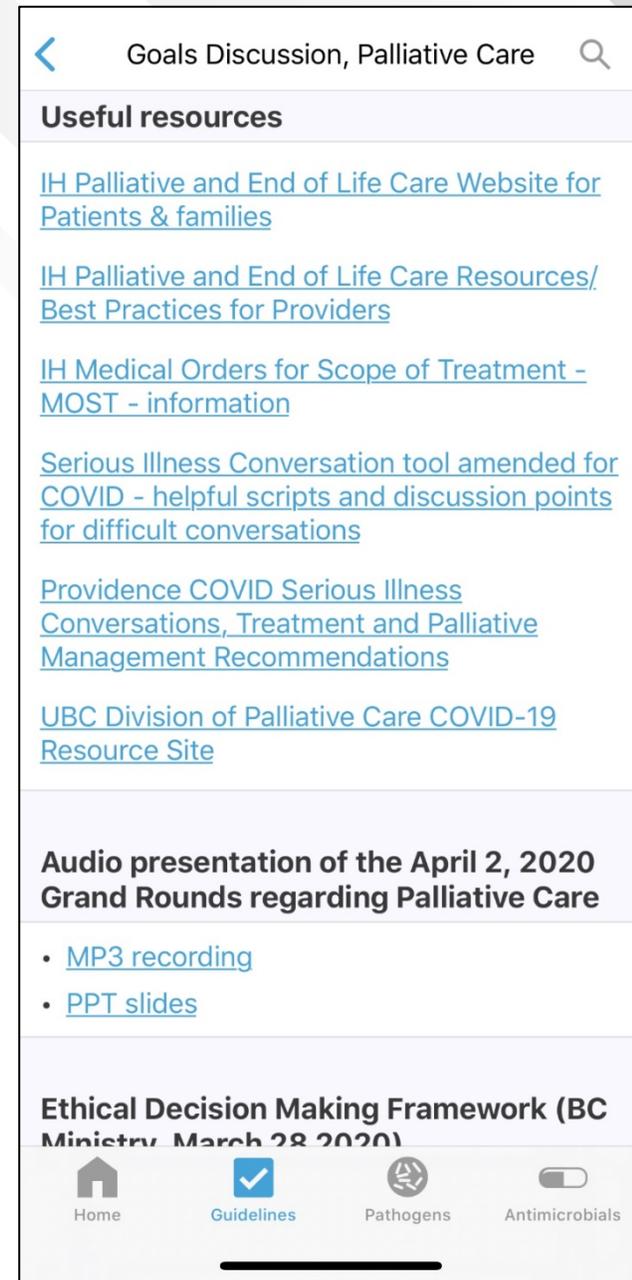
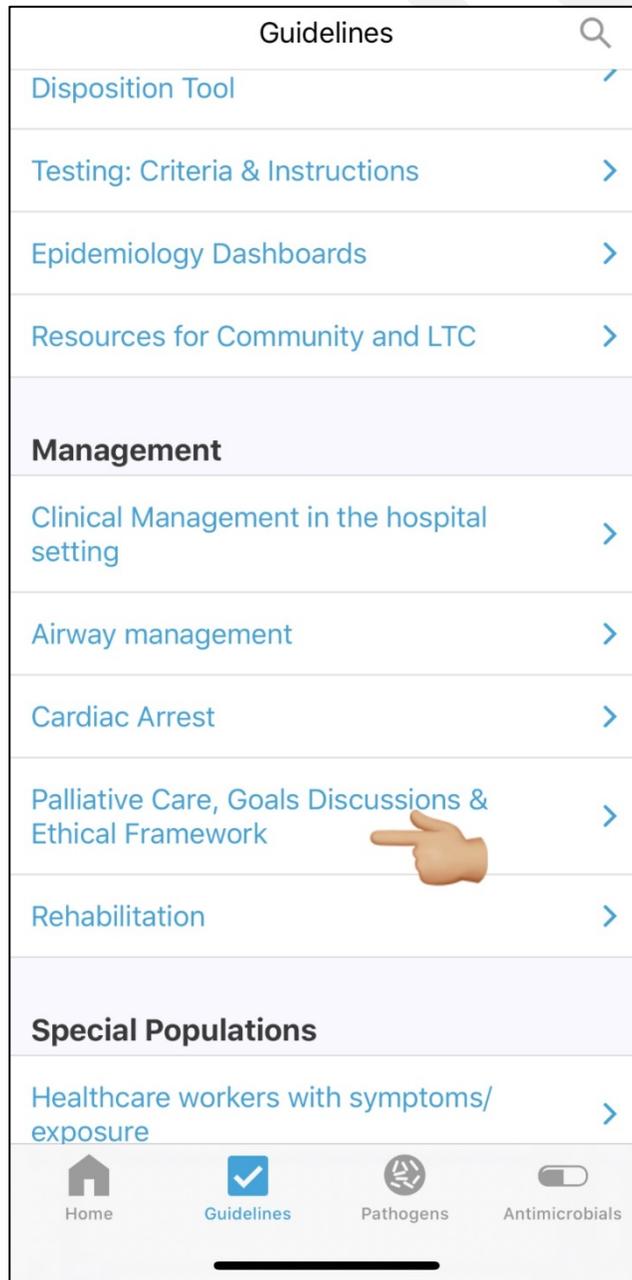
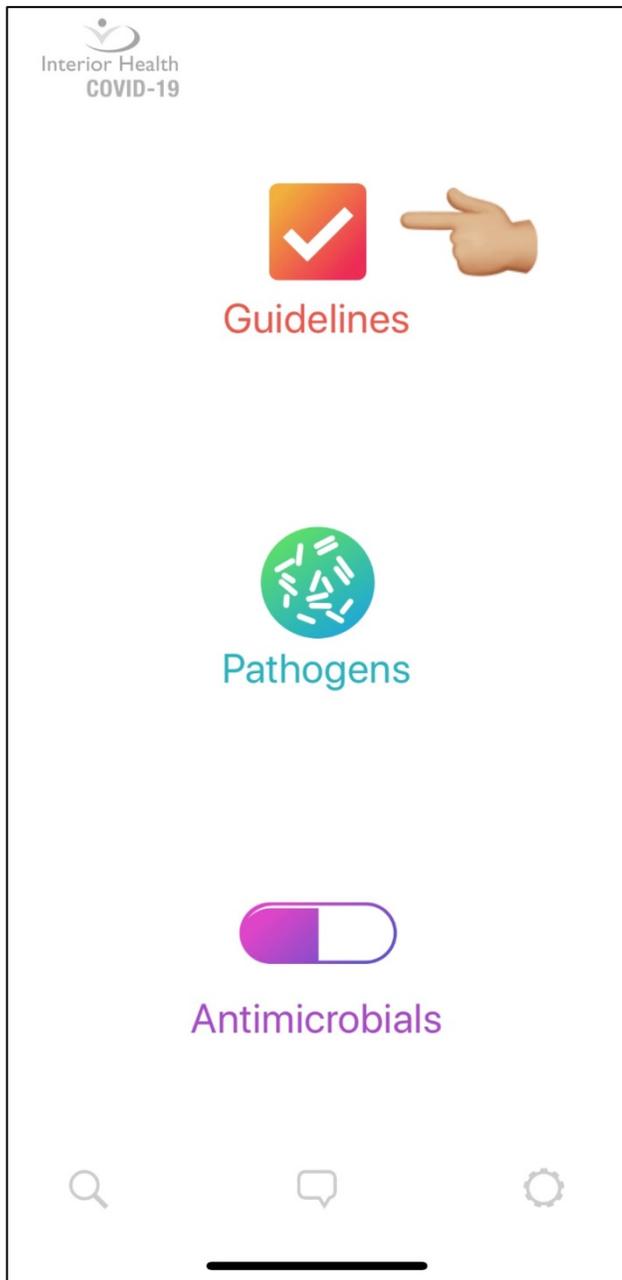
<https://staging.spectrum.md>

*Send feedback within the app for continuous improvement*





# Spectrum App – Palliative





# Wrap Up & Next Steps

## Awareness of LTC Documents & Protocols

- [COVID-19 Long Term Care & Client Transfers](#)
- [Medical Health Officer Requirements for Patient/Resident Inter-Facility Transfers](#)
- Spectrum App

## MRP Support for LTC Sites

- Provide current contact info to site & identify “House Physicians” for LTC facilities where possible
- Support resident/family serious illness conversations and documentation of [MOST](#) status

## Provision of Care in Place as appropriate

- Virtual care info available [here](#) and memo for using Zoom on deployed iPads available [here](#)
- Palliative and End of Life Care info for residents/families available [here](#) and for practitioners available [here](#)
- Grand Rounds Prognosis and Palliative Care in COVID-19 [presentation](#) and [audio recording](#)

## Contact Regional Medical Directors for LTC as necessary

- Questions can be directed to [medicalstaff@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:medicalstaff@interiorhealth.ca)



# IH Links: COVID-19 and Long Term Care

- BC Provincial Health Officer - Guidance March 20<sup>th</sup> [LTC & AL Operators Guidance](#)
- BC Provincial Health Officer - Order March 27<sup>th</sup> [Movement Limitation of LTC Facility Staff](#)
- BC Provincial Health Officer - Order April 15<sup>th</sup> [LTC Facility Staff Assignment](#)
- IH Medical Health Officer Memo April 18<sup>th</sup> [Requirements for Patient/Resident Inter-Facility Transfers \(updated April 18, 2020\)](#)
- IH Memo [COVID-19 Long Term Care & Client Transfers](#)
- IH Web Page - MOST [https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourCare/PalliativeCare/ToughDecisions/Pages/Medical-Orders-for-Scope-of-Treatment-\(MOST\).aspx](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourCare/PalliativeCare/ToughDecisions/Pages/Medical-Orders-for-Scope-of-Treatment-(MOST).aspx)
- IH Web Page – Virtual Care <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Physicians/Pages/Virtual-Care.aspx>
- IH Memo – LTC iPads and Zoom [https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/CommunicableDiseaseControl/covid19/IH-PH-COV-461%20Memo\\_Using%20Zoom%20on%20Deployed%20iPads%20for%20Virtual%20Care\\_25Apr2020.pdf](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/CommunicableDiseaseControl/covid19/IH-PH-COV-461%20Memo_Using%20Zoom%20on%20Deployed%20iPads%20for%20Virtual%20Care_25Apr2020.pdf)
- IH Web Page – Palliative/End of Life for Residents/Families <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourCare/PalliativeCare/Pages/default.aspx>
- IH Web Page – Palliative/End of Life for Practitioners <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/Partners/palliative/Pages/default.aspx>
- Grand Rounds – Prognosis & Palliative Care COVID-19 presentation  
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/CommunicableDiseaseControl/covid19/PPT - Prognosis and Palliative Care in COVID-19.pdf>
- Grand Rounds – Prognosis & Palliative Care COVID-19 audio  
[https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/CommunicableDiseaseControl/covid19/COVID-19%20Grand%20Rounds\\_02April2020.mp3](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/CommunicableDiseaseControl/covid19/COVID-19%20Grand%20Rounds_02April2020.mp3)



# Resources: COVID-19 and Long Term Care

- CDC - Severe Outcomes Among Patients with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) – United States, Feb 12 to Mar 16, 2020  
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6912e2.htm>
- Government of Canada – Epidemiological summary of COVID-19 cases in Canada  
<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html>
- Government of Canada - Vulnerable Populations and COVID-19  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/vulnerable-populations-covid-19.html>
- Global News – Long-Term Care Homes with the most coronavirus deaths in Canada  
<https://globalnews.ca/news/6828045/long-term-care-homes-most-coronavirus-deaths-canada/>
- British Columbia Office of the Provincial Health Officer – COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>
- Government of BC – Joint Statement on Province of BC’s COVID-19 response and latest updates  
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0021-000773>
- British Columbia Office of the Provincial Health Officer – COVID-19 Where we are. Considerations for Next Steps. Prepared for BC Ministry of Health April 17, 2020 [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19\\_Update\\_Modelling-DIGITAL.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19_Update_Modelling-DIGITAL.pdf)
- BC Centre for Disease Control – COVID-19 Data & Dashboard  
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>
- BC Centre for Disease Control – Long-Term Care Facilities and Assisted Living  
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/clinical-care/long-term-care-facilities-assisted-living>