

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

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MHO Orders
& Transfers

Dr. Silvina Mema

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LTC Facilities
& Staff Response

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Role of the
Physician

Dr. Doug Smith

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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

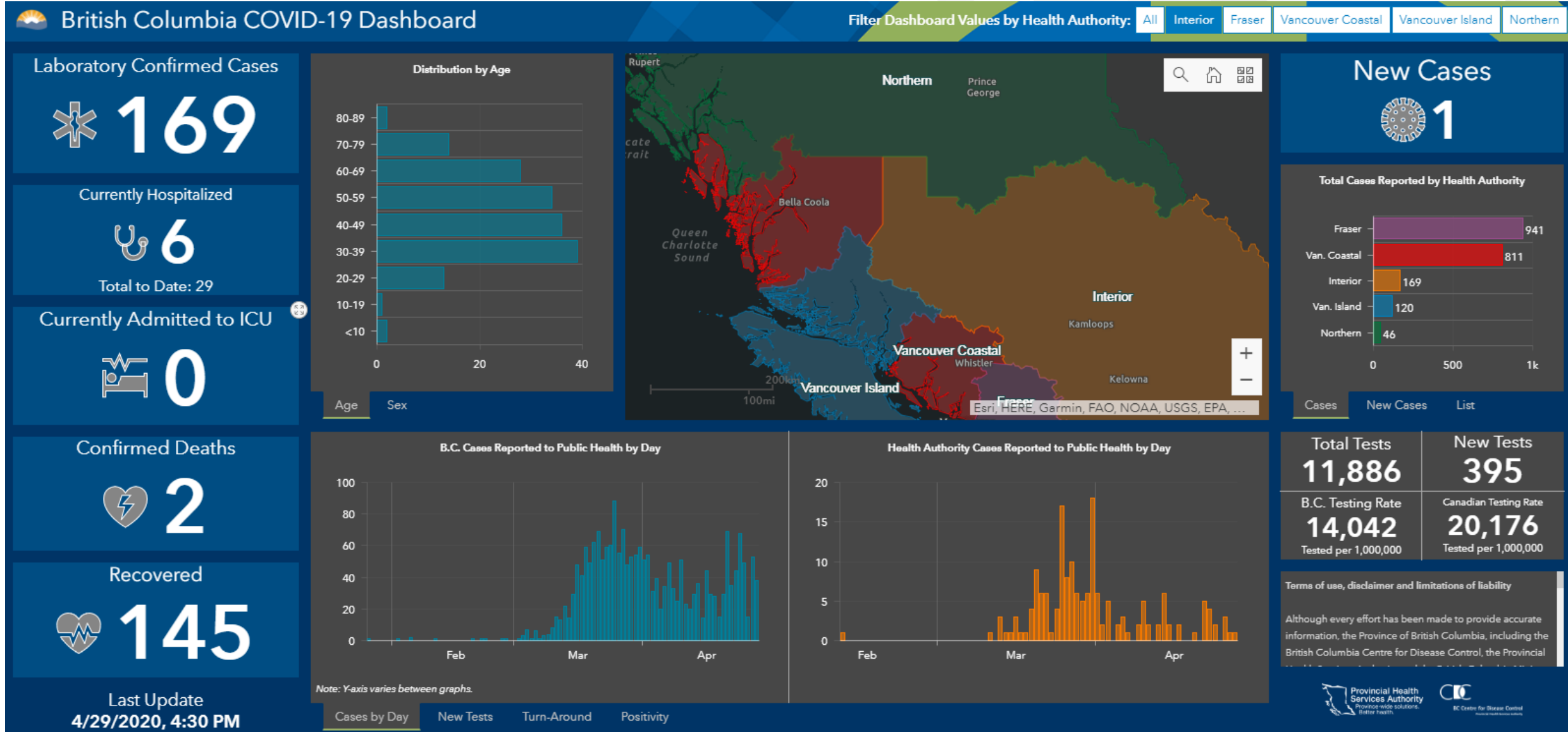
- 21 LTC / AL facilities with current COVID-19 outbreaks (and 13 declared over)
 - Median age of people who have died in BC is 86
- Data per Bonnie Henry, BC Provincial Health Officer*

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 20th - 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 27th – 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 15th – 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 27th – 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*

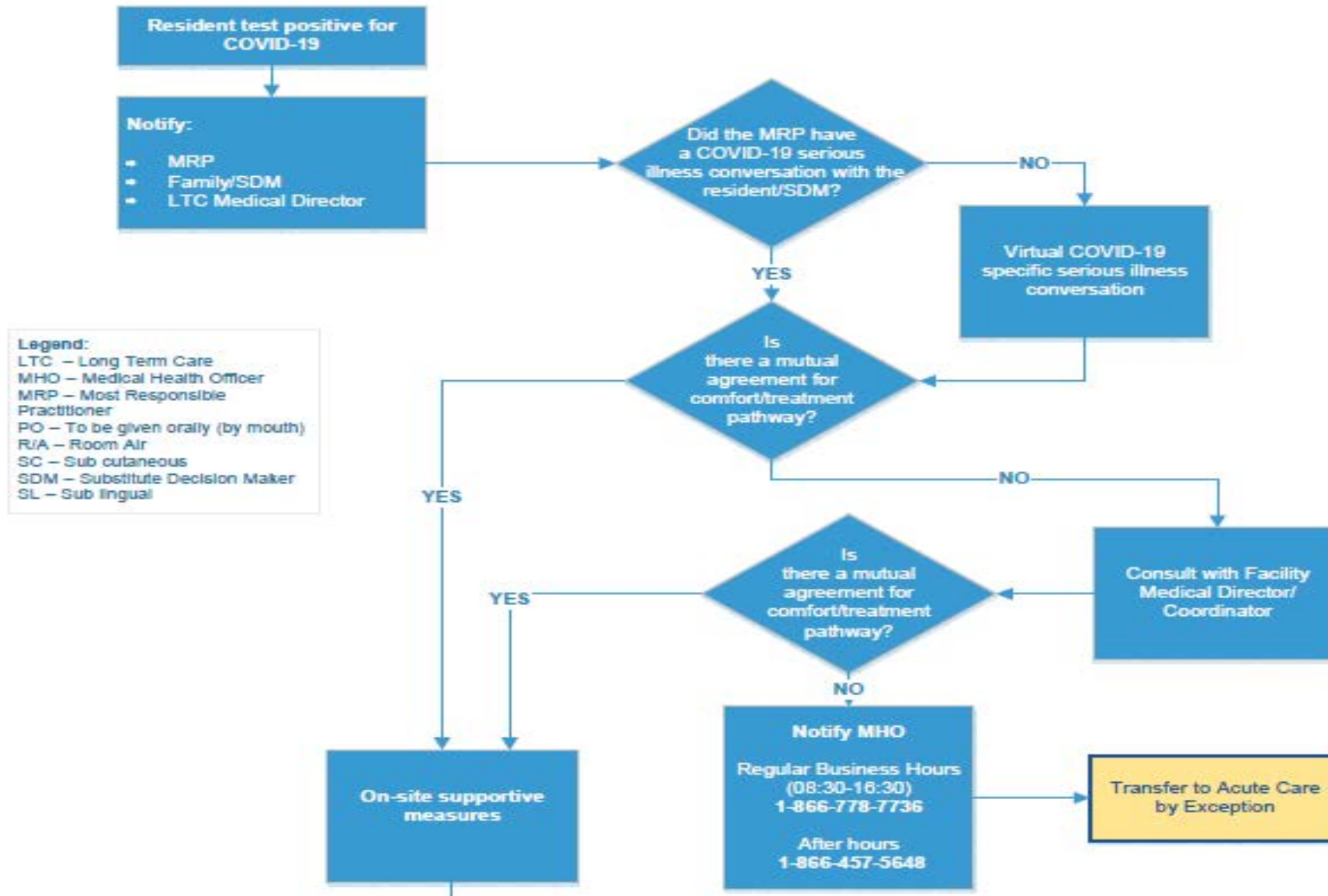


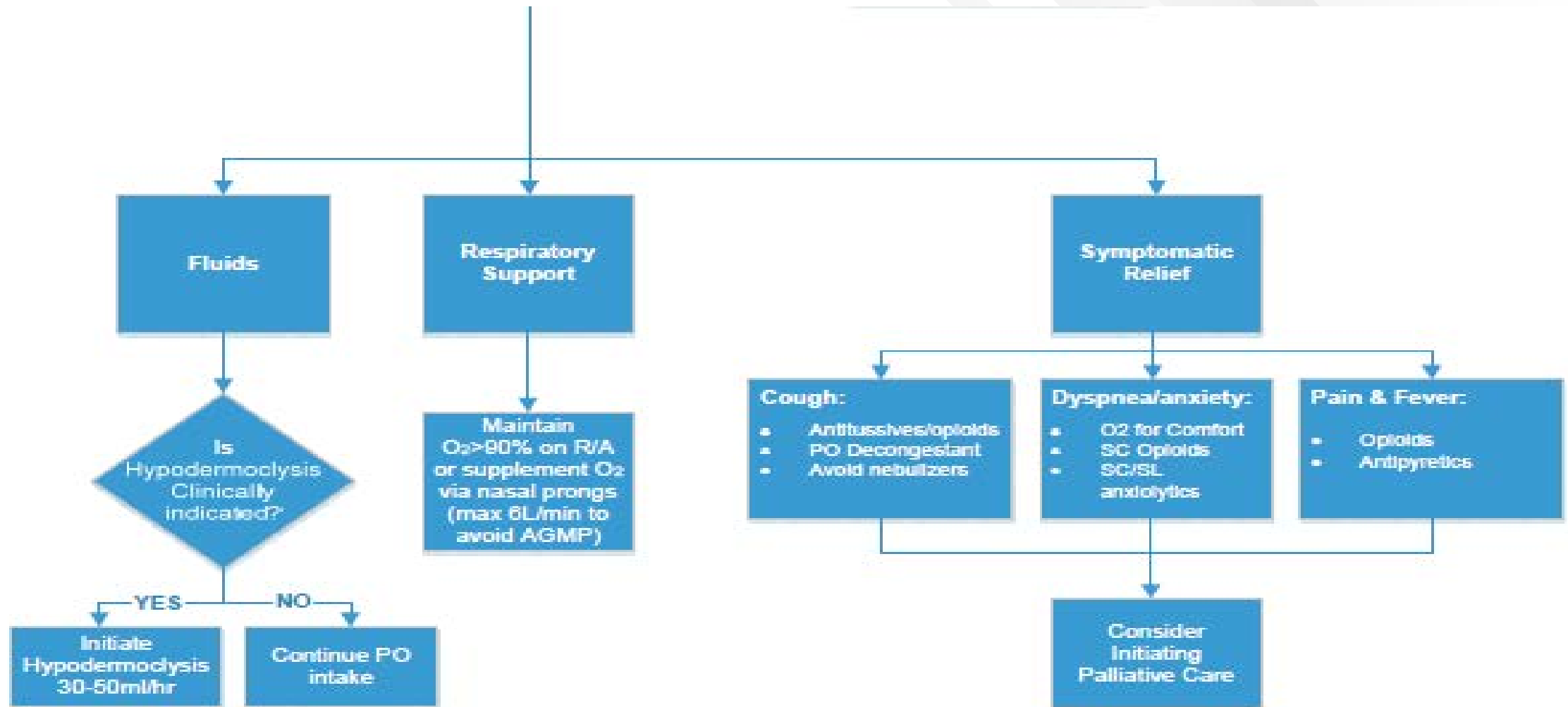
Preparations & Planning in LTC



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

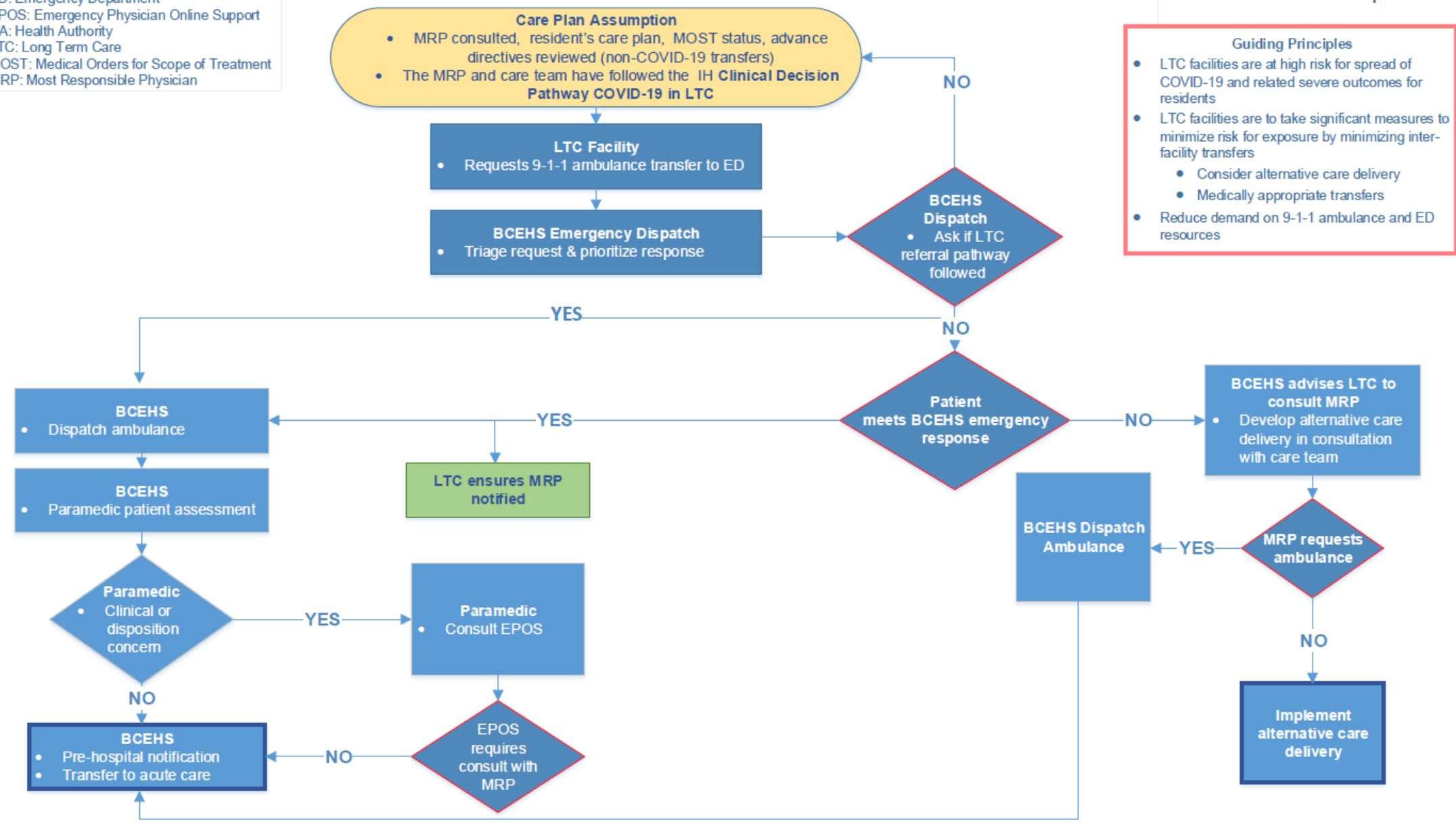
Caller asked COVID screening questions
Caller redirected to consult MRP where criteria not met



Legend
 BCEHS: BC Emergency Health Service
 ED: Emergency Department
 EPOS: Emergency Physician Online Support
 HA: Health Authority
 LTC: Long Term Care
 MOST: Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment
 MRP: Most Responsible Physician

Provincial COVID-19 9-1-1 Long Term Care Transfer Algorithm

Endorsed by Provincial
Transport EOC



- Guiding Principles**
- LTC facilities are at high risk for spread of COVID-19 and related severe outcomes for residents
 - LTC facilities are to take significant measures to minimize risk for exposure by minimizing inter-facility transfers
 - Consider alternative care delivery
 - Medically appropriate transfers
 - Reduce demand on 9-1-1 ambulance and ED resources



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

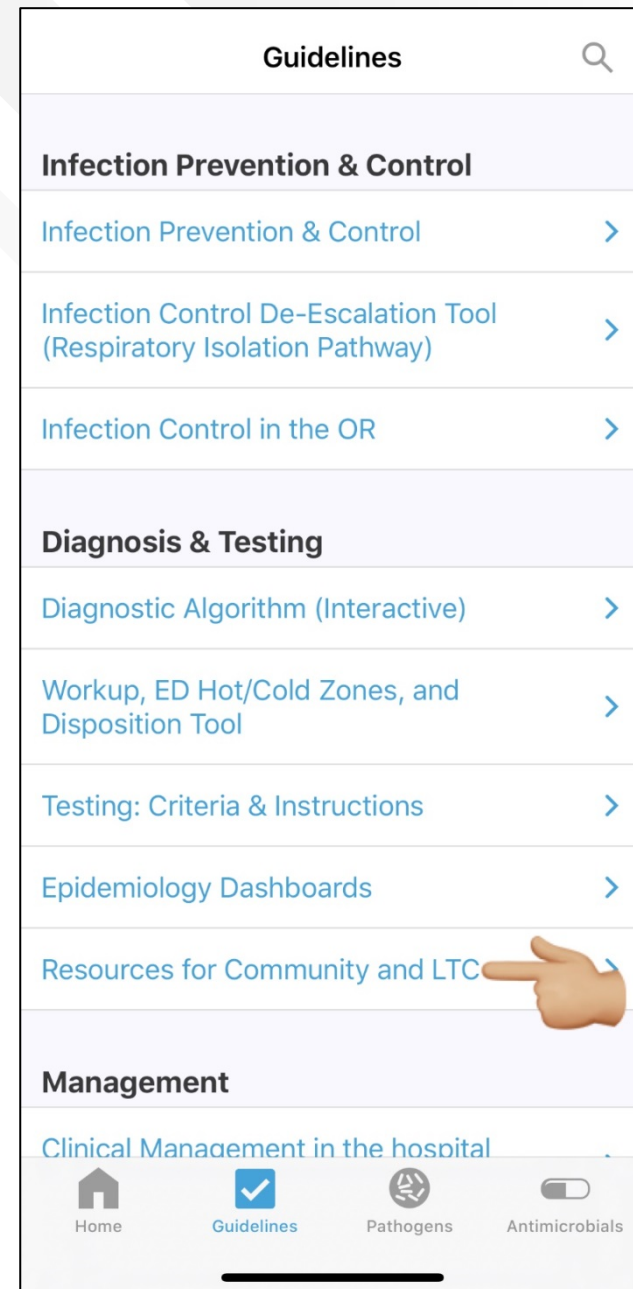
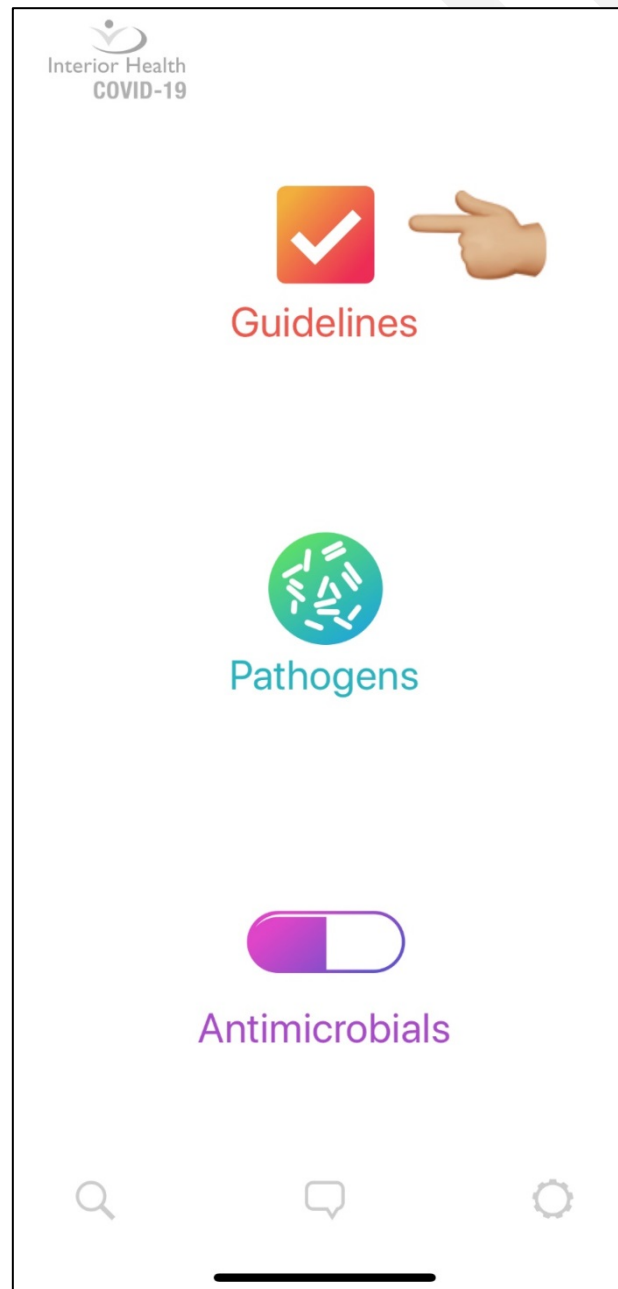
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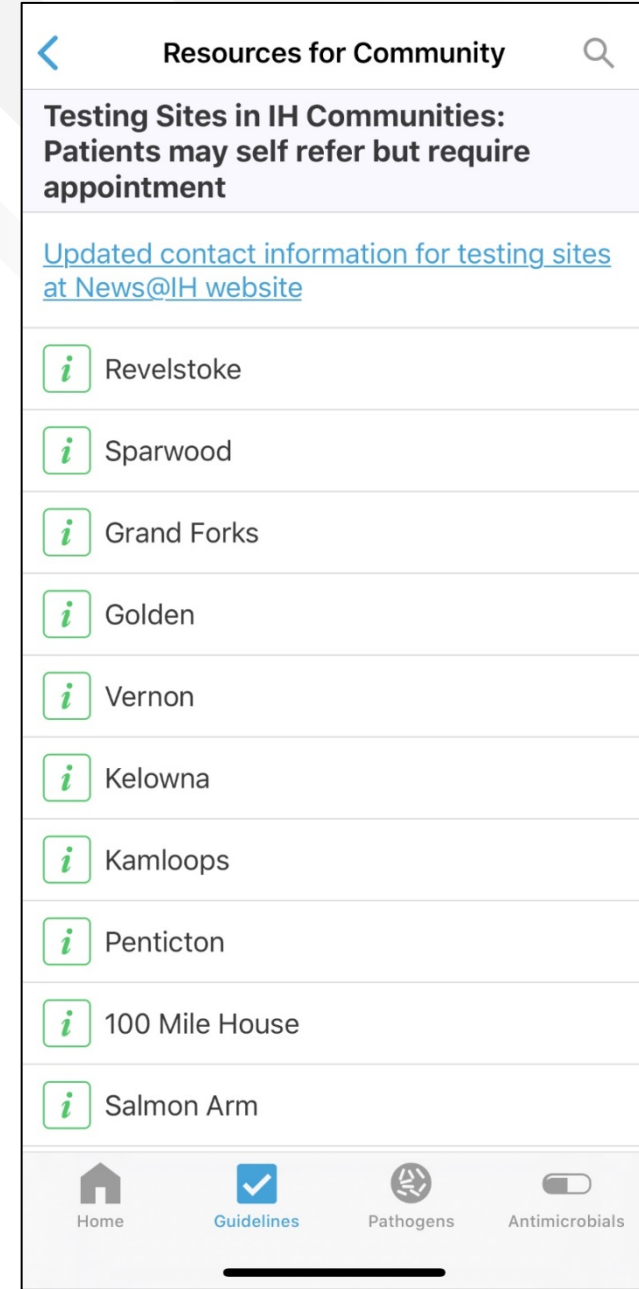
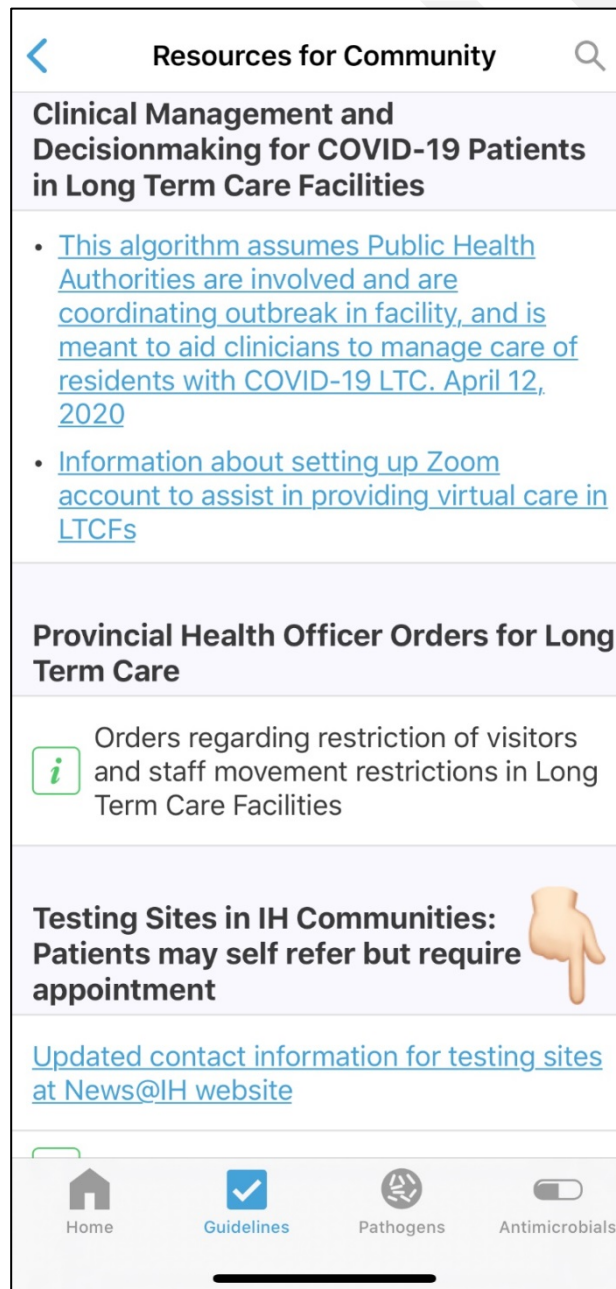
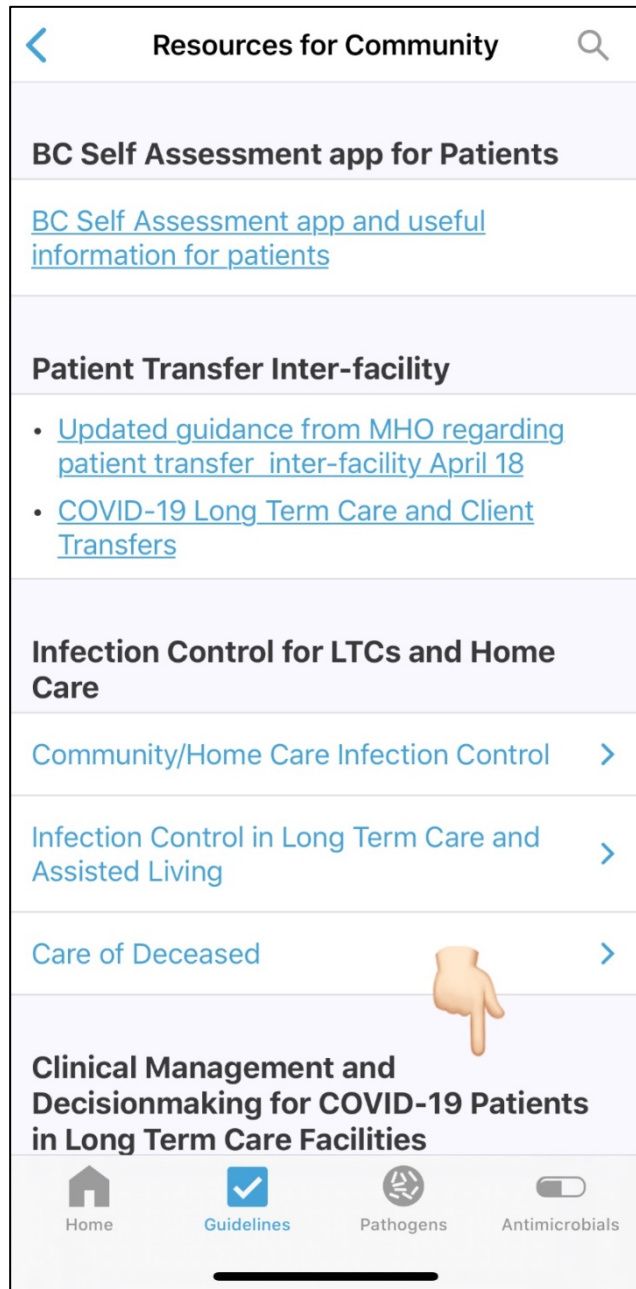
- Go to app store
- Download Spectrum ID
- Select “IH” as location

For laptops/computers:

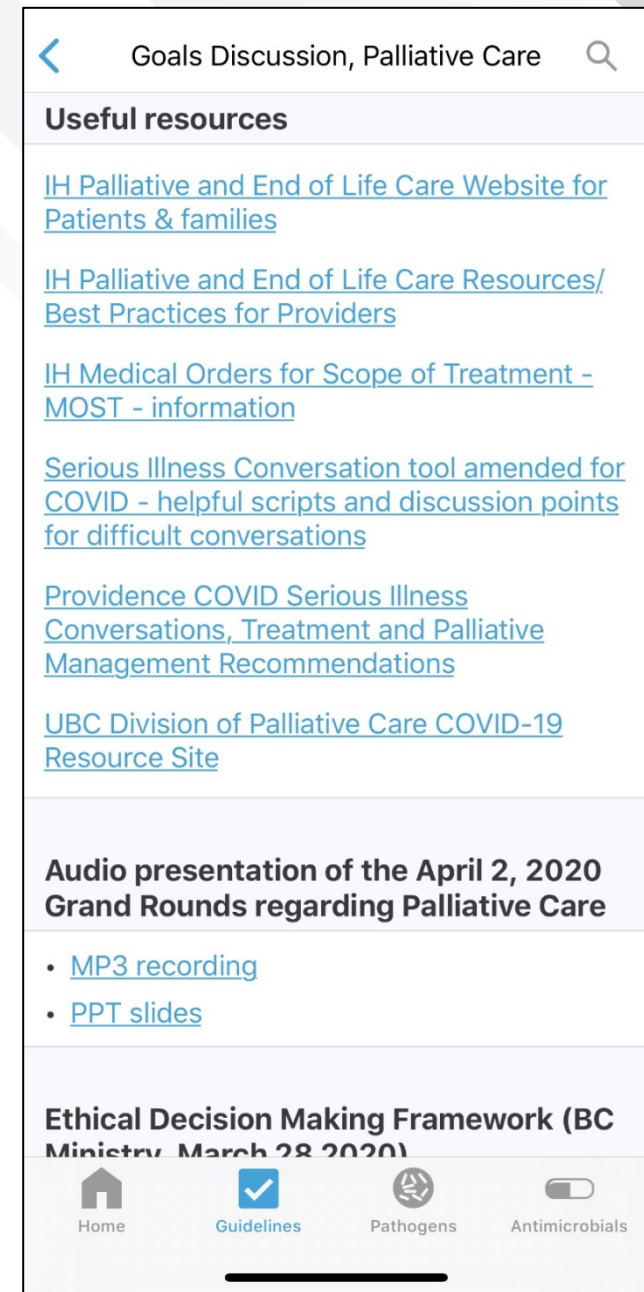
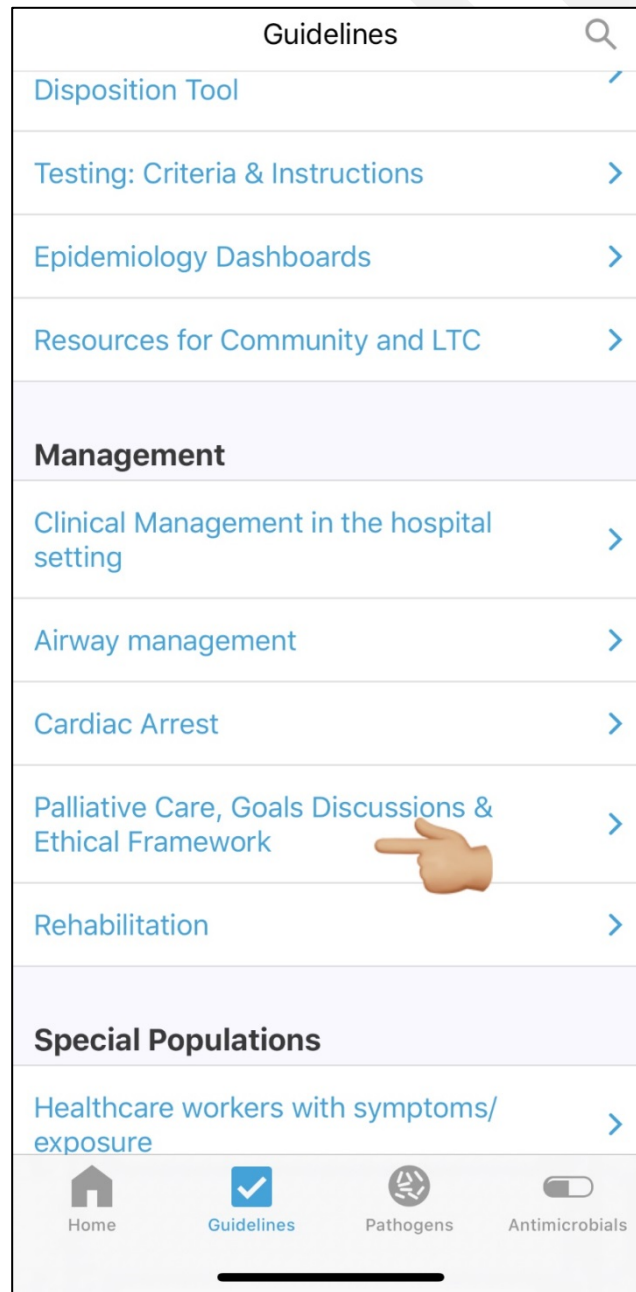
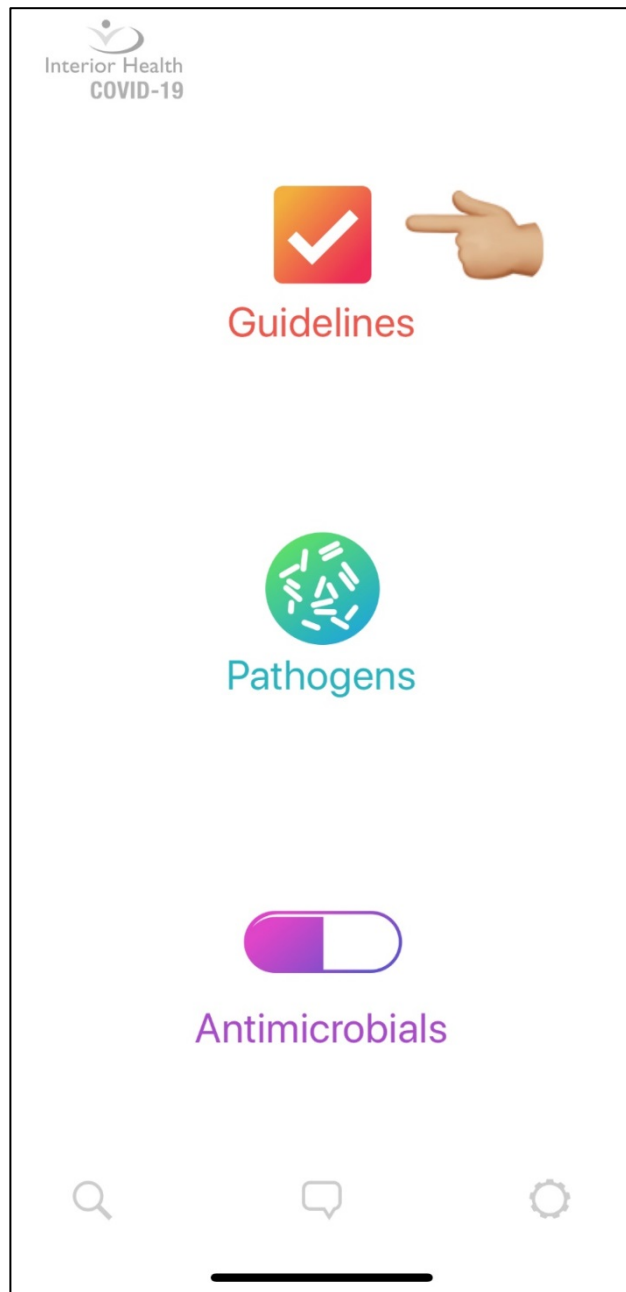
<https://staging.spectrum.md>

*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



IH Links: COVID-19 and Long Term Care

- BC Provincial Health Officer - Guidance March 20th [LTC & AL Operators Guidance](#)
- BC Provincial Health Officer - Order March 27th [Movement Limitation of LTC Facility Staff](#)
- BC Provincial Health Officer - Order April 15th [LTC Facility Staff Assignment](#)
- IH Medical Health Officer Memo April 18th [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
- 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](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



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
- 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>