

## Greenwoods Eldercare Society Bulletin

### 22 May 2020

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#### BC's Restart Plan – Phase 2

We're now nearly a week into Phase 2 and although it is wonderful to feel we're moving forward, there has also been some trepidation at relaxing the restrictions. Our focus remains the safeguarding of the Residents and Team and all efforts continue to ensure infection prevention best practices are adhered to.

It is reassuring that there has not been a single case of COVID-19 in any of the assisted living or long term care facilities in the Island Health Authority region. The total number of confirmed cases in the Islands Health Authority remains at 126 with the last new case confirmed two weeks ago.



COVID-19 Coach Education Session

Despite the positive numbers, the steps into Phase 2 of the restart plan mean the risks may change and we cannot be complacent. Island Health continues to develop the COVID-19 protocols focusing towards establishing sustainable practices that will be in effect for the foreseeable future. A COVID Coach was on site last week to review our protocols and provide additional education to the team. The COVID Coaches are Island Health nurses with a specialty in communicable diseases. Our coach Karly was very complimentary of the work Barb has led in operationalising the new directives and she was very impressed with the Team's level of competencies and their caring and calm approach.

Island Health has been conducting simulations of the protocols at different long term care and assisted living facilities and the lessons learned from these exercises have been excellent to refine the protocols and build confidence across all levels.

#### Essential Visiting

While we are seeing certain restrictions being relaxed in Phase 2, the essential visiting provincial health order remains in effect. We are anticipating a revised order in mid-June but a Ministry of Health Communique on 19<sup>th</sup> May re-stated that essential visits restriction remain in place. Essential visits are visits for compassionate care, including critical illness, palliative care and visits that are paramount to the patient/client's physical care and mental well-being.

Requests for essential visits are being assessed on a case by case basis. We appreciate how difficult it has been to be apart from loved ones for so long and thank everyone for being patient and supportive of our requirement to comply with the provincial health order.

If there are any concerns over a Resident's wellbeing or health, the Team will notify the contact person immediately.

If you would like to discuss the essential visiting protocol, please contact Barb for Greenwoods Residents and myself regarding Braehaven Residents.

### Single Site Designation

As of this week, Greenwoods Long Term Care and Braehaven Assisted Living are now formally classed as a single site. This change of designation will allow Team members to work at both buildings.

The change in designation allows us to safely reinstate a recreation program in Braehaven. Our activity coordinator Nikki Hanssens is very excited to be back at Braehaven and the Residents gave her a very warm welcome today. In line with recommended infection prevention protocols, Nikki will work designated days at each building and not cross over to the other during that time. Our maintenance team will also have designated days at Braehaven or Greenwoods. For now, having separate dietary and housekeeping teams for each building will continue.

### Special Days

Many thanks to the Team for creating some very special moments with celebration and joy over the past weeks. There have been some milestone birthday parties and the LTC Mothers' Day Celebrations were great fun, culminating with ice cream in the garden.



Kind regards  
Aletha Humphreys  
Executive Director