

## GES Bulletin

### 30 September 2021

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It is hard to believe that it's already autumn! The change of season has brought relief from the very dry hot summer conditions and the Greenwoods and Braehaven gardens are again looking lush and green. The Residents are still enjoying the gardens on the warm autumn days.

The past 18 months feels like a period of continuous change and once again, we're responding to the recent Provincial Health Orders to do all we can to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our Residents and Team. It's very clear that the high transmissibility of the COVID 19 Delta variant has heightened the risk and vaccination of all staff is the best means of protecting the Residents.

Some of our team members have found the decision to accept the vaccination to be extremely difficult and have declined to be vaccinated. Unvaccinated staff will not be permitted to work as of 12<sup>th</sup> October, and we are sorry to be saying goodbye to some very valued members of the team. Over the past several weeks there has been significant support from Island Health to provide education and resources. We have met frequently with the staff in groups and one to one. The discussions have been respectful and at times emotional, as very caring individuals have had to choose between their own convictions and their commitment to their work, the Residents and fellow team members.

To mitigate the impact of reduced staffing levels, we are reviewing the care and services model and reallocating staff and reassigning duties where possible. We are working closely with Island Health to ensure safe care is maintained. We are committed to maintaining the values of GES: creating a sense of **'home'** for the residents and families, delivering **person directed** care and services with **compassion**, empathy, and **collaboration**, **striving for excellence** and **respecting** each other, the Residents, and all who visit – family, friends, and volunteers.

As we continue through this pandemic it is important to pull together as we have been doing over the past year and a half.

We are actively recruiting new team members in all departments. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please ask them to contact us by phone (250 537 5561) or email ([hr@greenwoodeldercare.org](mailto:hr@greenwoodeldercare.org)).

Thank you to the many family members and friends who are visiting more frequently and assisting with meals and care.

Our next **Residents, Family and Friends Zoom Meeting** will be held on Tuesday 26 October from 1.00pm – 2.00pm. The purpose of these meetings is to share information, answer questions and discuss key activities at both Braehaven and Greenwoods.

To register please click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZUlfuGsQz8jEtFGYCyPAnDQUv9w18KY1kez>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards  
Aletha

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