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**To:** FH-contracted Facility Medical Directors  
Division of Family Practice Long-Term Care Initiative Physician Leads  
Division of Family Practice Executive Directors

**From:** Fraser Health Long-Term Care COVID-19 Physician Task Force  
Dr. Akber Mithani, Regional Medical Director, Long-Term Care & Assisted Living  
Eric Chi, Lead, Physician Services, Long-Term Care & Assisted Living

**CC:** Dee Chatha, Director, Long-Term Care Contract Services  
Norm Peters, Vice President, Regional Care Integration  
Irene Sheppard, Executive Director, Regional Care Integration

**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020

**Re:** Long-Term Care COVID-19 Physician Task Force Memo #1

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The Long-Term Care COVID-19 Physician Task Force was created to provide direction for critical physician-related issues in regards to COVID-19 in Fraser Health-funded long-term care homes.

The Task Force has four **temporary** recommendations...

1. Limit visitors to only essential adult visitors

Essential visitors include visitors attending for compassionate reasons such as residents who are dying or very ill, or visitors assisting with resident feeding etc. as decided in collaboration with the care home administration.

2. Non-essential physician visits should be avoided

Physicians will only physically visit the residents where it is deemed to be absolutely clinically indicated. However, physicians will still be available for their residents as usual (ie., via telephone, SBAR, or other technology as per the care home's existing capabilities). Physicians visit multiple residents potentially across a number of care homes and could act as a vector.

3. ER transfers will occur only when clinically essential

Physicians will continue to engage in goals of care conversations with the family and transfers to ER will occur only when deemed clinically essential at the discretion of the physician.

4. All care conferences will take place virtually

Families should be universally requested to attend virtually rather than in-person. Physicians should be encouraged to attend virtually if there is no other reason that they need to be on-site.

Furthermore, the group would like to reiterate that it is best to **avoid nebulized medications** as outlined in the "Guidelines for Airway Management – *FH Departments of Anaesthesiology, Critical Care, and Emergency Medicine*" document.

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Better health.  
Best in health care.

# Memo

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Please contact Eric Chi at [eric.chi@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:eric.chi@fraserhealth.ca) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ken Dueck, Chair  
Dr. Sandra Derkach  
Dr. Larry Gustafson  
Dr. Amber Jarvie  
Dr. Ralph Jones  
Dr. Brianna Noon  
Dr. Anthony Tran