



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 24, 2020

Re: Long-Term Care COVID-19 Physician Task Force Memo #2

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 would like to make 5 points:

1. Recommendation to proactively have COVID-19-related goals of care discussions with families

Proactively educating families that there is currently no medical treatment beyond supportive care for COVID-19, and that supportive care can be provided more effectively in the care home, will give families time to digest the information when they are not in a crisis situation. Should an outbreak happen, it will be difficult to manage all of the conversations at once. Start with M3 or higher residents and with families who may already be anxious.

2. Protocol for when a resident *must* leave the care home (ie., dialysis, urgent specialist appointment):

- a. Follow standard screening process for anybody entering the care home
- b. Monitor (b.i.d. temperatures and assessment for respiratory symptoms) closely for symptoms for 14 days after the last transfer outside of the care home.
- c. If symptoms are developed, test for COVID-19 and isolate for 14 days. If possible, isolate upon return regardless of symptoms

3. Recommendation to use "LTCF" on testing requests for Assisted Living and Convalescent Care residents when co-located with long-term care

Assisted Living and Convalescent Care residents fall under the lowest priority for testing. "LTCF" will group requests under the second highest priority group.

4. Recommendation to conduct post-mortem swabbing

In the event that a resident has passed away with preceding possible COVID-19-like symptoms but has not



been swabbed, an NP swab testing for COVID-19 should be done post-mortem. This is useful for COVID-19 or other respiratory pathogen identification. Inform family and mark requisition as post-mortem.

5. Long-Term Care Telehealth/Virtual Health billing codes:

The Doctors of BC and Ministry of Health have agreed to enhance telehealth for physicians. Please refer to page 6 of the [Doctors of BC FAQ](#) for clarity on billing in long-term care.

A provincial group comprised of all Regional Medical Directors of Long-Term Care & Assisted Living, ethicists across the province, the Ministry of Health, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC are currently producing two documents that will be circulated ASAP:

1. A clinical decision pathway for long-term care residents that are COVID-19 positive
2. A letter from the Regional Medical Directors and potentially Provincial Health Officer to families addressing what the illness is, what's being done to prepare and protect residents, the course of treatment, and the best place for care

These documents and more details will come in a future memo.

This information will be forwarded to care home administrators via Irene Sheppard's team.

Please contact Eric Chi at 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