



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
Dr. Andrew Larder, Executive Medical Health Officer for Population & Public Health and
Medical Health Officer for LTC
Norm Peters, Vice President, Regional Care Integration
Irene Sheppard, Executive Director, Regional Care Integration

Date: Friday, April 24, 2020

Re: Long-Term Care COVID-19 Physician Task Force Memo #5

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.

Attachments are referenced in **red** under each point.

1. Current Guidelines for Admissions

Please see the attached guidelines for admissions to LTC from the LTC Coordination Centre. We will continue to share updates regarding admissions as the management of COVID-19 continues to evolve.

However, we would like to outline the following statement from **Dr. Andrew Larder, Executive Medical Health Officer for Population & Public Health and Medical Health Officer for LTC in FH:**

As per the provincial direction across all regional health authorities, it is highly recommended that all admissions to LTC from acute care be isolated for 14 days with droplet precautions where possible. This provincial direction is aligned with the recommendation from the Public Health Agency of Canada. It is important to ensure that such an intervention would support and maintain the physical and mental wellbeing of the resident, as well as take into account the practical ability of the care home.

[Algorithm for Admissions to LTC CV AL during COVID-19 April 22, 2020](#)

2. Clarification on swabbing

Symptomatic residents should be swabbed immediately and placed on droplet precautions. Those who test negative should be monitored closely with droplet precautions continued. Given the chance for false negatives, the MRP should be consulted and repeat swabbing should be considered before removing precautions.

Because little evidence currently exists, the Task Force has created a simple algorithm as guidance.

[LTC Physician Task Force COVID-19 Swab Flowchart](#)

3. [Clarification on single site recommendation for physicians/on-call designate](#)

The recommendation for physicians to only work at a single site doesn't apply if a clinically necessary on-site visit is required that would prevent a hospital transfer.

Please call ahead to arrange for appropriate PPE upon arrival rather than hunting for it.

4. [Guidelines on how to manage unique geriatric psychiatry cases during COVID-19](#)

Wandering residents with dementia who are COVID-19 positive may pose a risk of spreading the disease. Non-COVID-19 positive residents who live in a care home currently under outbreak measures may also pose a risk.

Dr. Atul Nanda, Physician Lead for Geriatric Psychiatry in LTC, with input from other geriatric psychiatrists, clinical ethicists, and other clinicians, has created a set of guidelines for management of such residents.

The Physician Services team is finalizing a geriatric psychiatry consultation support system for physicians who may need assistance in managing such cases. Further information will be sent out to physicians and care home leadership shortly.

[Management strategies for wandering and restlessness in COVID-19 positive patients with dementia](#)

5. [Draft LTC Pre-Printed Orders \(PPO\)](#)

The Pre-Printed Order (PPO) attached is meant to be used for patients who have a pending COVID-19 swab test or for those who have a confirmed COVID-19 infection in LTC. The first half of the PPO is meant to offer some guidance regarding infection control measures, vital sign monitoring, and advice regarding O₂ therapy considerations. The second half focuses on medications that you may want to consider using for COVID-19-specific symptoms. In addition to these orders, you should use your clinical judgment to treat any other medical concerns and also consider use of the Actively Dying Protocol as needed.

[LTC COVID PPO-April 24 2020](#)

6. [Donning and doffing of PPE at a care home](#)

Care home staff will monitor essential medical services personnel donning and doffing of PPE to ensure technique and Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines are properly followed. This is a necessary step to prevent errors in donning and doffing as many LTC physicians have not been required to do proper PPE for years.

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