



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

CC: Dee Chatha, Director, Long-Term Care Contract Services
Dr. Andrew Larder, Executive Medical Health Officer for Population & Public Health/
Medical Health Officer for LTC
Norm Peters, Vice President, Regional Care Integration
Irene Sheppard, Executive Director, Integrated Community-based Services
Ana-Maria Gidofalvi, Director, Assisted Living Services

Date: June 25, 2020

Re: Long-Term Care COVID-19 Physician Task Force Memo #9

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. **Things to consider when your facility is declared on Outbreak with COVID**

We have an outbreak what's next?

Fraser health will send a “Enhanced Outbreak Support Team”. This will not be their first rodeo. They will help with infection protocols, staffing and correct use of PPE.

What is an EOC ?

An emergency operations centre. They will meet virtually and daily. You as facility medical director will be invited.

Do you wait for an invite?

In “the fog of war” this is sometimes neglected. So invite yourself , you can get details from your DOC.

How do physicians know when there are further positive swabs?

Your input and presence as facility medical director is vital. In the flurry of activity steps sometimes get neglected, e.g. when everybody assumes that someone else has informed the MRP. In our experience families are informed promptly and kept up-to-date. It can be embarrassing as a GP if a family contacts you for any reason and you do not know their relative is COVID positive! Please review that a framework is in place in your facility to inform the most responsible clinician about new positive COVID cases.



How can I support my facility on outbreak?

As a facility medical director and leader, you can support the staff both physically and psychologically. Your presence at these meetings is reassuring to your team. Reaching out to your colleagues who have patients that test positive could be helpful to provide support and guidance.

Who else can help me?

In the unhappy event of an outbreak, feel free to contact a member of the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Physician Task Force who can direct you with FMD's that have experienced an outbreak.

Dr. Anthony Tran – anthony@transformmedicalcentre.com

Dr. Brianna Noon - brianna.noon@fraserhealth.ca

Dr. Ken Dueck - Ken.Dueck@fraserhealth.ca

Dr. Sandra Derkach - Sandra.Derkach@fraserhealth.ca

Dr. Amber Jarvie - Amber.Jarvie@fraserhealth.ca

Dr. Ralph Jones - Ralph.Jones@fraserhealth.ca

2. Death Certificates

Please note that death certificates must be completed within 48 hours of the death. Please see some recent questions and responses below related to death certificates and LTC.

I have not been onsite recently to assess my patient. Can I sign the death certificate?

Yes, you may sign the death certificate after reviewing the patient's chart.

If you require more than 48 hours to review the chart, you may write "interim" on part 1, line A for cause of death. Once you are able to review the chart, a replacement death certificate must be completed and sent.

What date do I list for the date of last visit if I have been using virtual visits for the past few months?

When completing a death certificate, you may list the date of the last virtual visit.

What do I list as the date of last visit if I am covering for a colleague and have never met the patient previously?

You may list the last date of visit by your colleague and the death certificate can be signed after you have reviewed the patient's chart.

Alternatively, you may list "interim" as the cause of death (part I, line A) until the MRP can complete a death certificate. A replacement death certificate must be done.

If I suspect the patient died from COVID-19 but they were never tested or tested negative, what do I list as the cause of death?

If the patient was not tested and you suspect a COVID-19 respiratory infection as the cause of death, you may

- a) call the coroner to review; they may consider post-mortem swabs
- b) you may list "probable COVID-19" for line I, part A if you have a high index of suspicion

[Physician Handbook for Death Certificates](#)



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Memo

3. Task Force Resources on the FH Medical Staff

All previous memos and attachments can now be found on the FH Medical Staff site under the [Physician's Resources section here](#)

Please contact Kelly Nagel at kelly.nagel@fraserhealth.ca who can direct your question further.

Sincerely,

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