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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:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020

**Re:** Long-Term Care COVID-19 Physician Task Force Memo #4

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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.

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

1. Clinical decision pathway in LTC residents

This pathway was created by the Regional Medical Directors, Long-Term Care & Assisted Living, at all health authorities and approved by the Ministry of Health for province-wide distribution. It is also hosted on the BCCDC site [here](#).

[Clinical Decision Pathway in LTC Residents FINAL](#)

2. Communication process for outbreaks

- i. BCCDC notifies FH Public Health of confirmed positive COVID-19 case
- ii. Respiratory Illness Outbreak Notification (RION) to FH LTC Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)
- iii. **Regional Medical Director immediately calls the site's Facility Medical Director and the local Division's LTCl Physician Lead to coordinate notification to MRPs and call group physicians**
- iv. FH LTC sets up a Site EOC that includes the Facility Medical Director for outbreak management

A more in-depth flowchart will be circulated when finalized.

3. Clarification on the protocol for when a patient is accepted from acute care/resident returns to LTC

The resident should be isolated and **droplet precautions initiated** for 14 days and monitored as per the *Fraser Health COVID-19 Screening Tool*. Swab if symptoms develop.



**fraserhealth**

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Best in health care.

# Memo

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4. Clarification on recommendation to have proactive goals of care conversations

The intention of the previous recommendation to proactively have goals of care conversations with families around COVID-19 was to discuss the experiences of the frail and elderly who become infected with the disease at other care homes as well as to raise awareness about the appropriateness of ED transfers. It was NOT to recommend that new admissions or current residents must have a specific MOST designation. We would like to urge physicians to have goals of care conversations with families around COVID-19 and where appropriate, access the palliative care support system as outlined in our previous memo.

5. Update on letter to families from the Regional Medical Directors

The letter was rejected by the Ministry of Health and will thus not be distributed. We would request our physicians to utilize the approved clinical decision pathway outlined in point 1 as a tool to assist in goals of care conversations with families.

The Medical Health Officers also released a memo with changes and clarification regarding testing that was distributed to family physicians. It is being included for your reference.

[MHO Alert – Changes and clarification regarding testing – Apr 8 1630](#)

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

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