

COVID-19

December 17, 2020

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Enhanced monitoring: Update on exposures of COVID-19 in long-term care and assisted living sites

What is happening?

- The provincial approach to COVID-19 exposures in long-term care and assisted living has been updated and Fraser Health will be aligning with this approach to COVID-19 exposures and outbreaks, as outlined by the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Ministry of Health.
- The Medical Health Officer (MHO) will declare a COVID-19 outbreak at a site when evidence of COVID-19 **transmission** is found.
- When there is a single, low-risk case of COVID-19 with no evidence of transmission at a site (i.e. a COVID-19 exposure), the Medical Health Officer will not declare an outbreak and the facility will be placed on enhanced monitoring. During enhanced monitoring, Public Health will provide guidance to manage the exposure, and enhanced infection prevention and control measures will be put in place at the site.

How does this affect you?

- During enhanced monitoring, facilities will continue to be supported by Public Health for questions and guidance. This will not change. A number of infection prevention and control measures will apply. Information related to these control measures can be found in the relevant sections of the [LTC/AL COVID-19 Toolkit](#):
 - Swabbing (*COVID-19 Testing*)
 - Isolation/droplet precautions for those who are exposed
 - Screening of residents/tenants and staff (*Fraser Health COVID-19 Screening Process*)
 - Enhanced cleaning (*Housekeeping Quick Reference: Enhanced Cleaning during COVID-19*)
 - Stopping social visits/group activities
- **Specific measures** sites should apply on unit where a COVID-19 exposure occurred (the affected unit):
 - Actively screen residents/tenants and staff to identify further cases and report promptly using [Tool 27](#) (resident/tenant) or [Tool 28](#) (staff); testing/isolation of all who are symptomatic
 - Residents/tenants cared for by an affected staff member placed on isolation/droplet precautions
 - Stop all communal/group activities on the affected unit
 - Tray service for all residents/tenants' meals on the affected unit
 - Stop all social visitation to the affected unit
 - Stop all admissions/transfers to the affected unit
 - The measures above may be modified at the discretion of the Medical Health Officer.

- **Support:**

- When Public Health staff connect with the site, they will outline what to expect while a facility is on enhanced monitoring, and provide guidance on communication for families/staff
- Public Health staff will be available during initial days after a case is identified to address any questions that the site has. If further transmission is identified, more intensive measures, including declaration of an outbreak, will occur
- Sites will continue to monitor for new cases for 14 days from last exposure while applying measures recommended by Public Health. After the initial couple of days after a case is identified and measures are applied, Public Health staff will be available for consultation on an as-needed basis
- Public Health staff will connect with sites at the end of the 14-day monitoring period to advise on further follow-up
- Sites should ensure adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies and refer to *How to Access PPE Supplies* in the [LTC/AL COVID-19 Toolkit](#)
- For staffing concerns, refer to *Staffing Support* in the [LTC/AL COVID-19 Toolkit](#).

Questions?

Please submit via the [online inquiry form](#) to the LTC/AL Coordination Centre
For suspected cases, please contact Public Health at COVIDLTCHub@fraserhealth.ca