January 26, 2021

Licensees/Managers/Staff,

In mid March of 2020, most of Fraser Health's Licensing program was redirected from routine duties to support the enforcement of FHA Medical Health Officer and Provincial Health orders at long-term care and assisted living sites. Licensing officers and investigators continued as part of assessments or investigations and discussions around managing care in this new environment.

We have seen and heard how hard organizations are working to keep persons in care and teams safe, and we want to acknowledge the monumental task that has been for all of you. **Thank you for this work you have done, and continue to do for our most vulnerable population**.

For Licensing, we are now able to resume routine inspection work. To assist with our expanded workload we have hired 10 new licensing officers, some of whom you may have already met completing assessment work.

Please note the guidelines in place for LTC licensing routines at this time:
- Inspections will be unannounced as per usual licensing practice
- Licensing Officers will wait a minimum of 30 days post-outbreak to provide time for your site to resume normal operations
- Licensing Officers will not complete routines at outbreak sites (there are rare exceptions to this, and you will be notified prior to the start of the routine in this case)
- PPE will be maintained as per PHO/ FH LTC CC requirements

The resumption of routine inspections will begin Monday, February 1, 2021. We will start with sites that are overdue for an annual routine and were in the moderate or high risk category the last routine inspection. Overdue low risk sites will follow.

This does not change the ongoing COVID-19 Prevention Assessment work that is currently in place. Licensing Officers will coordinate scheduling to ensure space between assessments and routine inspections.

If you have any questions, please connect directly with your licensing officer.

Best,

Kara Bonkowski
Residential Licensing Manager