



## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** March 16, 2020  
**TO:** Licensed Residential Facilities  
**FROM:** Shelley McClure, Regional Manager Community Care Facilities Licensing  
**RE:** COVID-19

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Dear Residential Care Licensee,

The health and safety of residents and staff in residential care facilities is of paramount importance to Island Health's, Community Care Facilities Licensing program. While the risk of spread within British Columbia remains low, Island Health is taking precautionary steps to prevent illness caused by COVID-19 within residential care facilities.

We understand the importance of family and visitors to residents and we are trying to balance resident health and safety with quality of life.

**Starting immediately, the following should not visit or enter the facility:**

- People who have returned from travel from all locations outside of Canada, from March 12, 2020 onward, who are required to self isolate at home for 14 days upon return to British Columbia.
- Travellers who had returned to Canada from China, Iran and Italy prior to March 12 are required to self isolate at home for 14 days.
- Anyone with symptoms of a cold or influenza, such as fever or cough, or shortness of breath.
- Children and youth who are school aged or younger.
- Anyone who has been in contact with a person infected with COVID-19 during the previous 14 days.

Please limit visitors to **1** visitor per resident.

**Please ask visitors to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after visiting. Preventative measures should be employed at all times.**

We understand that this may raise questions and concerns and we invite you to speak with your Licensing Officer. Information can found on the [Island Health website](#) Facilities are encouraged to put preventative measures in place. I will be sending a separate message regarding preventative measures later today.

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**Community Care Facilities Licensing**

29 – 1925 Bowen Road | Nanaimo BC V9S 1H1 | Tel: 250.739.5800 | Fax: 250.740.2675

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