

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 21, 2020

## Only essential visits allowed to Island Health facilities

**Island-wide** — Island Health is working in partnership with the Ministry of Health and BC Centre for Disease Control to respond to COVID-19. The situation is evolving quickly and our strategies are evolving to keep people in the communities we serve safe.

To support the Provincial Health Officer's directions around social distancing and protect our residents, patients and staff from the transmission of COVID-19, Island Health has made the difficult decision to allow only essential visits to our facilities.

Essential visits will be considered for patients who are:

- critically ill
- receiving end-of-life care
- frail and need an escort or family member for their safety

Eligible essential visitors must pass important screening criteria. This means they cannot have a cough, runny nose, fever, sore throat or shortness of breath, and they cannot have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days.

We understand the importance of visits from family and loved ones to our patients and long-term care residents and we appreciate your understanding and support in helping to keep everyone safe.

The British Columbia Centre for Disease Control is the recommended resource for provincial information that is accurate and current: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>. Information is being updated frequently on the site at this time and individuals are encouraged to check back regularly (eg. daily).

Island Health also has frequently updated information on our website: [www.islandhealth.ca/covid19](http://www.islandhealth.ca/covid19)

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