

March 2, 2020

Dear Member of the SHS Community,

Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, has been in the news a lot lately, and I wanted to share some information about SHS's response to the situation with you. While the danger to most Canadians is minimal at this time, it is an ever-shifting situation and it is best that we are all prepared.

Information about COVID-19

While there is lots of information about COVID-19 on social media, this information is not always accurate. The best place to get up-to-date information about the virus is on reputable government websites, such as Canada's Public Health Service Website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>.

What is SHS doing about COVID-19?

At present, it is business as usual at SHS and UNITI. SHS leadership is monitoring and will follow the COVID-19 advice of Fraser Health, and the provincial and federal government. In some countries where the virus is more prevalent, places and events where large numbers of people gather have been closed or cancelled (schools, malls, soccer stadiums, etc.). It is possible that this will also happen in Canada. If that is the case, SHS will establish essential services protocols, which likely means that most of our services where people congregate will be closed, with the exception of 24/7 services such as group homes and Chorus.

Within SHS, we will continue to work with staff and the people we support to ensure that we are doing all we can to prevent the spread of any viruses. This will include education about COVID-19 in a person-centred manner. The hygienic actions that should be followed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are the same as the ones that should be followed to prevent the spread of the common cold or flu.

It is very important that staff members and people we support stay home if they are feeling ill or exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

- Coughing or sneezing
- Headache
- Fever
- Chills
- Feeling queasy

I should add that this is best practices in general, and even without the COVID-19 situation, people should stay home if they are feeling ill.

If you have any questions about SHS's response to the COVID-19 situation, please do not hesitate to contact Seema Tripathi at s.tripathi@shsbc.ca or 778 888 5916.

Sincerely,



Doug Tennant

Executive Director

Semiahmoo House Society