



March 12, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Situation

Dear Peninsula Child Care Parent/Caregiver,

I'm writing this letter to let you know some of the measures that Peninsula Child Care (PCC) and Semiahmoo House Society (SHS) are taking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to give you some information and resources for you to make some decisions about actions you might take during this time.

SHS has been paying close attention to the information and guidance being shared by reputable organizations, including the World Health Organization, Canadian and British Columbian government health departments, Fraser Health, Community Living British Columbia, and our Resource Nurse. Some of the actions we have taken include hand washing campaigns in our services, increased cleaning of surfaces in our buildings, and being very strict about people staying home if they are coughing, have a fever, or are feeling ill. All of these actions are ones that we take every flu season, but we have increased our public actions around these best practices due to the danger that COVID-19 poses to our community.

At this point in time (noon on March 12, 2020), COVID-19 is still being deemed a low risk for the general population of Canada, but this could change rapidly. There is an increased risk for more severe outcomes for people in Canada:

- Aged 65 or over
- With compromised immune systems
- With underlying medical conditions

If you or your child is at increased risk for more severe outcomes, you should be preparing in case the COVID-19 situation gets worse in Canada. This could happen in a very short time, and you need to be prepared to take care of yourself and your loved ones. This means stocking up on supplies, taking precautions to keep space between yourself and others, and avoiding crowds as much as possible. While SHS and PCC have increased our health and cleaning vigilance because of COVID-19, if you or your child has a compromised immune system, you may decide that it is safer for you to stay home.

All families of children who attend PCC should be prepared and ready in case PCC needs to be closed for a period of time. The closure of PCC could happen with very little warning, and you need to have a plan in place in case this happens.

This letter is intended to give straightforward information about COVID-19 and PCC's response. It is also meant to prepare you for the possibility that you may need to support your children for a period of time without having access to Peninsula Child Care's services.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Shannon Jones - Manager - PCC at 604 541 8433 or

Brianna Hopaluk - Manager of Community Services - Semiahmoo House Society 604 536 1242 ext 232

Sincerely,

Doug Tennant

CEO, Semiahmoo House Society

Resources

While there is much media coverage of the COVID-19 virus it is important to be sure the information is reputable and up to date. Here are five sites that will keep you informed (google the name if this is not an electronic letter):

- [Public Health Authority of Canada](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [BC Ministry of Health](#)
- [Government of Canada Travel Advisories](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)