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SEMAHM  
MOO  
FOUNDATION

March 12, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Situation

Dear Semiahmoo House Society WISE Participant/Supporter,

I'm writing this letter to let you know some of the measures that Semiahmoo House Society (SHS) is 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. SHS is also changing some activities that might be considered to have a higher risk because of close contact with large groups of people. For example, we will not be going to public swimming pools and will reduce or cancel our visits to community centres and other locations where we are unsure of the protocols that have been put in place to protect people from COVID-19. This means that people will likely be spending more time outdoors or in our buildings.

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 the person you support 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 has increased our health and cleaning vigilance because of COVID-19, if you have a compromised immune system, you may decide that it is safer for you to stay home.

**All people who use SHS's Employment Services should be prepared and ready in case these services need to be closed for a period of time. The closure of our services could happen with very little warning, and you need to have plan in place in case this happens.**

This letter is intended to give straightforward information about COVID-19 and SHS's response. It is also meant to prepare you for the possibility that you may need to support yourself and your loved one/person you support for a period of time without having access to SHS's Community Services.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Seema Tripathi** at [s.tripathi@shsbc.ca](mailto:s.tripathi@shsbc.ca), Tel# 778 888 5916.

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 \(WHO\)](#)

SHS's communications about COVID-19 and our response can be found here:

[www.unit4all.com/coronavirus-communications/](http://www.unit4all.com/coronavirus-communications/)