



SEMAIHM
MOO
HOUSE
SOCIETY

PENINSULA
ESTATES HOUSING
SOCIETY

THE
SEMAIHM
MOO
FOUNDATION

June 26, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Semiahmoo House Society Community,

I am addressing this letter to the whole Semiahmoo House Society community: people we support, the families of people we support, home share providers, and all our staff members. For the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be working together, with as few boundaries as possible to ensure that everyone is supported and safe.

June 26th Update

BC's Phase Three

[BC's Phase Three began this week](#), which means SHS's Phase Three will begin to roll out next week. It is important to note that the guidelines and extra safety precautions for Phase 2 are still in place, the only difference for SHS services is that we will be moving from one-to-one direct support to small groups of 2 to 4 people doing things together—mostly outdoors, as it is clear that outdoor activities are much safer than indoor ones. This should also mean that there will be some more hours available for people to be supported—probably double from Phase Two. We will not be able to go into scheduled daily services similar to pre-COVID times (similar, but likely with fewer hours but a set schedule) until BC reaches Phase Four, which is unlikely to happen this summer or fall. In fact, it is more likely that we will go back to Phase Two or One in the fall if a vaccine is not found. During Phase Three, we are striving to be flexible—if the best time for you to be supported is in the evening or on weekends, see if this is possible with your SHS support worker. As in Phase One and Two, your primary contact should be with the direct support worker—they will be working with you to schedule support times and set up small group activities, if appropriate.

SHS's Community Services Phase Three Overview:

- Direct one to one support can remain as per preference and need
- Increase staff/person ratio to two to one for those with shared connections and/or similar interests and where social distancing can be maintained
 - Groups of people will remain consistent
- Combine two small groups in a shared space where social distancing can be maintained
 - Groups of people will remain consistent
- Support hours will be flexible based on preference, staff and space availability
- Safety protocols will be in place and must be followed
- Tracking and reporting systems will be developed
- On-line Campus option remains in place

More information about BC's phased re-opening can be found [here](#). No date is yet given for when Phase Four will begin as that will depend on what happens with COVID-19 over the summer and into the fall.

Important and Ongoing Information

Pandemic Learning Project

UNITI and SHS are participating in a project that will help us and others be better prepared for future emergencies by learning about what people have been doing during the pandemic. The project involves collecting stories from people from across Metro Vancouver with all different kinds of experiences, especially people with disabilities, their families, home share providers, and the people who work with and support them. Please check out our project page and click on the link at the bottom if you have a story or stories to share. If you need someone to help you with doing this, contact Lynne Ford at l.ford@shsbc.ca or 604-536-1242 ext. 258. The more stories that are told by people in the disability community, the better. The project page is here: <https://uniti4all.com/pandemic-learning/>

Self-Advocate Work

Semiahmoo House Society and The Semiahmoo Foundation has been supporting self-advocates to have a voice during the COVID-19 pandemic. I wanted to share with you some of the advocacy work that two self-advocate groups that we are associated with have been doing. The Provincial Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) have been creating news releases and sending them to provincial and federal leaders, and the Self-Advocates of Semiahmoo (SAS) have created five public awareness videos about COVID 19. SALN news releases and SAS videos can be found on the [Uniti4All COVID-19 webpage](https://uniti4all.com/covid-19-information/) < <https://uniti4all.com/covid-19-information/> >

Guidance Counselor

Shab Khan, Registered Family Counsellor, MPCC, RPC, will be providing support to people connected to Semiahmoo House Society during the COVID-19 pandemic. The counselling is meant for people SHS supports, including people already on the Guidance Counselor's active list, people on her wait list, family members, and home share providers. Priority will be given to the people in the most critical situations (environmental, health, or emotional). The support given will be virtual—through phone, email, or secure online platforms. Contact information below:

Guidance Counselor contact information:

Shab Khan, Registered Family Counsellor, M.P.C.C., R.P.C.
Telephone: 604-536-1242 Extension: 276
Email: s.khan@shsbc.ca

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

If someone we support in home share or residential services does get ill with COVID-19, we have N-95 masks, face shields, and other PPE to distribute to people we support, home share providers, and staff members who are at risk. Due to limited supplies, these PPE are reserved for cases of confirmed COVID-19 infection (by Fraser Health) in staffed residential settings (group homes and Chorus) and home share homes only.

Additional Support

If you need additional support, please contact the relevant person listed below.

SHS Staff Member	Service/Program
Lise Boughen Director of Inclusive Living l.boughen@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 227	Staffed Residential (Group Homes) Chorus Apartment Supports
Gale Cooper Manager, Community Support Network g.cooper@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 231	Home Share Providers
Liz Deschenes Community Services Director e.deschenes@shsbc.ca 604-536-1242 ext. 234	Peninsula Child Care Acquired Brain Injury Services
Brianna Hopaluk Community Services Manager b.hopaluk@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 232	South Campus (formerly PD)
Teresa Randle Transitions Services Supervisor t.randle@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 311	North Campus (formerly Transitions) Focus Group Encore
Anita Bhatti Recreation and Leisure Services Program Coordinator a.bhatti@shsbc.ca 604-536-1242 ext. 255	Rec & Leisure Services
Kristyl Downing Program Coordinator—ABIS k.downing@shsbc.ca 604-592-1006 ext. 230	Acquired Brain Injury Services
Seema Tripathi Employment and Innovative Services Director s.tripathi@shsbc.ca 778 888 5916	WISE Employment Solutions Culinary Arts Program (CULA) SPARK tidyAlot

Sincerely,



Doug Tennant

CEO, Semiahmoo House Society

Semiahmoo House Society's COVID-19 Principles

- 1) All our decisions will be made with the safety of the people we support and our staff members being our first priority**
- 2) We will support people with disabilities to have the same right to safety as all other citizens in BC**
- 3) We are person-centred and will adapt our services to support people in the way that is best for them, given safety and resource realities**
- 4) We are open-minded and will revise our plans when new information suggests this**
- 5) We will be responsible with taxpayer funds and will use alternate resources when necessary in our response**

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](#)
- [CLBC COVID-19 Information Page](#)

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

<https://uniti4all.com/covid-19-information/>