



SEMIAHMOO
HOUSE
SOCIETY

PENINSULA
ESTATES HOUSING
SOCIETY

THE
SEMIAHMOO
FOUNDATION

November 9, 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.

November 9th Update

North Campus COVID-19 Update

Over the weekend we learned that a member of the SHS's North Campus community (people who attend/work at our Newton building) has tested positive for COVID-19. The virus was transmitted to the person at their home, not at North Campus. I have sent a separate letter to North Campus staff and people supported there. Contact tracing of this COVID-19 case is done by Fraser Health and people will be contacted by Fraser Health if they were exposed. I am letting you know about this case because it is important that we are open in our communications about COVID-19 cases, even if we are limited by privacy rules about what we are able to say. With the case count increasing in the Fraser Health region, it is very likely that we will have more cases of people in the SHS community catching COVID-19. We will continue to maintain, and in some cases, increase our safety protocols in our effort to keep everyone as safe as possible.

New Provincial Health Order

On Saturday, November 7th, [Dr. Bonnie Henry announced new health order with restrictions](#) in response to the rising COVID-19 count in Metro Vancouver, particularly in the Fraser Health region. These restrictions include the following:

1. Socialize only with your immediate household (your immediate family or roommates that live in the same home)
2. No gatherings of any size with anyone other than your immediate household (does not matter where—no gatherings)
3. Funerals and weddings may proceed with immediate household only
4. Suspend indoor group physical activities
5. In-person health screening of all onsite workers
6. Travel outside of the Fraser Valley should be limited to essential travel only

While our major funder, Community Living British Columbia (CLBC), has stated that these orders do not apply to service providers, we will be incorporating these practices as much as we can into our services (we continue to follow our COVID-19 Principles found at the end of this letter). For example, we will be making our safety checks for people entering South Campus and North Campus buildings a bit more rigorous and also moving supports from people's homes to the community or our buildings wherever possible.

Dr. Henry was pretty clear that the danger of COVID-19 infection is greater from at home gatherings than it is at the workplace. The virus is being spread by people gathering together in homes for significant periods of time, usually without masks or social distancing. As we approach our festive season (Diwali, Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's, etc.) please do not meet in person and find alternate ways to celebrate with your family and friends—for the next two weeks at least this is an order from the Public Health Officer that must be followed.

If you have any questions about SHS services and the new provincial health order, please contact the relevant person from the list on the next page.

Sincerely,



Doug Tennant
CEO, Semiahmoo House Society

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	Community Services
Brianna Hopaluk Community Services Manager b.hopaluk@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 232	South Campus
Teresa Randle Transitions Services Supervisor t.randle@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 311	North Campus 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

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/>