



SEMIAHMOO  
HOUSE  
SOCIETY

PENINSULA  
ESTATES HOUSING  
SOCIETY

THE  
SEMIAHMOO  
FOUNDATION

December 11, 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.*

### December 11<sup>th</sup> Update

#### **Being Safe at Home**

Nearly all of the COVID-19 positive cases that we are aware of in the SHS-UNITI community have come from transmission of the virus within a person's home. Please be safe at home, especially if you have a family member who is working in a [high-risk occupation](#) or who is feeling ill. If you or someone in your household is ill or has tested positive for COVID-19, the following are [best practices from the BC Centre for Disease Control](#):

- If non-infected people can stay elsewhere, they should, especially if they have a weak immune system or chronic health conditions
- If you must share a home, stay and sleep in a different room with good airflow that is away from others
- Use a separate bathroom if you can
- Wear a face mask if you are in the same room with anyone
- Avoid face-to-face contact
- Friends or family can drop off food outside your room or home

If you are a caregiver for someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has respiratory symptoms, [see this guide](#).

#### **COVID Recovery Benefits and Changes to PWD Supplement**

The Province of BC has announced a new BC Recovery Benefit. More information on this can be found [here](#).

- People receiving PWD benefits are eligible to apply and the amount will not be clawed back based on your existing benefits.
- Single people earning less than \$62,500 qualify for a \$500 payment and individuals earning up to \$87,500 will qualify for a reduced amount.
- Families with incomes under \$125,000 will be eligible to receive \$1,000 and families earning up to \$175,000 will qualify for a reduced amount.
- For people currently receiving the \$300 PWD Covid-19 supplement, **this amount will be reduced to \$150/month from January - March**. The reduced \$150 amount will be added to your PWD cheque automatically. You do not have to apply for this.
- The \$150 amount for three months + the \$500 benefit will be close to what people on PWD were receiving before, averaged out over three months.
- **The new recovery benefit is not automatic, you will need to apply.**

### **COVID-19 Communication**

While Fraser Health is responsible for COVID-19 contact tracing, out of an abundance of caution, SHS is also contact tracing as soon as we are made aware of a COVID-19 case within our community. This means that we will communicate with you if you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 at a SHS building or service. Please understand that we cannot legally or ethically release any personal information or identify anyone who has COVID-19. It is very important that we have a culture that supports people letting us know if they have COVID-19 or have had contact with someone who has COVID-19. Respecting people's privacy will allow for more open sharing of this type of information, which will make everyone safer.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Tennant'.

Doug Tennant

## 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 <a href="mailto:l.boughen@shsbc.ca">l.boughen@shsbc.ca</a> 604 536 1242 ext. 227	Staffed Residential (Group Homes) Chorus Apartment Supports
Gale Cooper Manager, Community Support Network <a href="mailto:g.cooper@shsbc.ca">g.cooper@shsbc.ca</a> 604 536 1242 ext. 231	Home Share Providers
Liz Deschenes Community Services Director <a href="mailto:e.deschenes@shsbc.ca">e.deschenes@shsbc.ca</a> 604-536-1242 ext. 234	Community Services
Brianna Hopaluk Community Services Manager <a href="mailto:b.hopaluk@shsbc.ca">b.hopaluk@shsbc.ca</a> 604 536 1242 ext. 232	South Campus
Teresa Randle Transitions Services Supervisor <a href="mailto:t.randle@shsbc.ca">t.randle@shsbc.ca</a> 604 536 1242 ext. 311	North Campus Focus Group Encore
Anita Bhatti Recreation and Leisure Services Program Coordinator <a href="mailto:a.bhatti@shsbc.ca">a.bhatti@shsbc.ca</a> 604-536-1242 ext. 255	Rec & Leisure Services
Kristyl Downing Program Coordinator—ABIS <a href="mailto:k.downing@shsbc.ca">k.downing@shsbc.ca</a> 604-592-1006 ext. 230	Acquired Brain Injury Services
Seema Tripathi Employment and Innovative Services Director <a href="mailto:s.tripathi@shsbc.ca">s.tripathi@shsbc.ca</a> 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/>