



SEMIAHMOO
HOUSE
SOCIETY

PENINSULA
ESTATES HOUSING
SOCIETY

THE
SEMIAHMOO
FOUNDATION

January 8, 2021

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.

January 8th Update

Greetings and Happy New Year,

I hope that you were able to spend some time with loved ones over the past few weeks, even if it had to be in virtual settings. I am optimistic that next year's Christmas and holidays will be very different and I am certainly looking forward to hugging my kids again sometime in 2021.

Vaccinations

[BC has begun rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine](#). At present, essential health care workers and people in hospitals and long-term care facilities are being vaccinated. This includes some SHS employees and home share providers who also work for Fraser Health or another Health Authority. People we support in group homes and residential support workers should be included in the second wave of vaccinations (February-March). SHS's expectation is that all employees will be vaccinated when it is their turn, unless there is a medical reason why they cannot receive the shot(s). Attached with this letter is a social story document that can be used to support people to understand the vaccination process. I am currently working with other disability advocates to ensure that people with disabilities are treated fairly during the vaccination roll out. For example people living in home share may have an increased risk of catching COVID-19 and the impact of the COVID-19 virus can also be greater on some people with disabilities for individual and systemic reasons, and we need to ensure that they receive their vaccinations at the appropriate time during the roll out.

Provincial Health Orders

Yesterday, [Dr. Henry extended the ban on social gatherings and other restrictions until February 5th](#). SHS continues to follow these orders to the best of our ability within the context of our essential work. We continue to work in Pods or keep our gathering as small as possible, while following our COVID-19 protocols.

Guidance Counselor

Thanks to a generous grants and funding from The Semiahmoo Foundation and other funders listed below, Shab Khan, Registered Family Counsellor, MPCC, RPC, will again be providing support five days a week 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

Thank You!

Guidance Counselling and Life Coaching under the Mental Health and Wellness Services is operating two concurrent projects: The Guidance Counselor Services During and Post Covid-19 Pandemic project is generously funded by a **Peace Arch Hospital Foundation Healthy Community Grant**. The Mental Health Support for People with Disabilities, Caregivers, and Essential Workers project is supported by the **Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund** and **SurreyCares Community Foundation**.

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,



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 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/>