



SEMIAHMOO
HOUSE
SOCIETY

PENINSULA
ESTATES HOUSING
SOCIETY

THE
SEMIAHMOO
FOUNDATION

March 19, 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.

March 19th Update

Vaccination Update

Yesterday, Dr. Henry announced that “front-line priority workers” were to be moved up the vaccination queue and could begin receiving their vaccinations in April. I was disappointed that Community Support Workers, such as those who work supporting people at South and North Campus at SHS were not included in the list of workers that were announced. We are advocating for SHS direct support staff to be included in the list as they are at greater risk for catching and/or transmitting the virus. For their safety and the safety of the people they support, it would be best if they got the vaccine. Complete list can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/plan>

We also continue to advocate for people with disabilities who have increased health risk to be moved forward in the vaccination queue. Currently, this group of people is included in Phase 3 of the vaccination roll out, which also begins in April. More information on this can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/plan#clinically-vulnerable>

Some positive news was also delivered yesterday when we were told that Residential Support Staff (group home support workers) can get their vaccinations starting today. People living in all 5 SHS group homes have been vaccinated this past week and I believe that people living in home share situations (and the home share providers) will also get permission for vaccinations shortly.

While it is positive news that the vaccinations are starting to happen for people who have disabilities and workers in this sector, we must continue to be vigilant and continue to strictly adhere to our safety protocols. There are new COVID-19 variants in BC and we do continue to see people connected to SHS (people we support, staff members, home share provider, and family members) who are testing positive for COVID-19. Thus far, we do not believe that any transmission has occurred at any of our buildings, but there have been people in our buildings who tested positive COVID-19. As soon as we become aware that someone who later tested positive for COVID-19 was in our building, we immediately instigate our own contact tracing and we will contact you if you have been at risk of potential exposure (Fraser Health has also been contacting people more swiftly than in the 2020, which is a positive).

We have been able to stay on top of COVID-19 thus far because of the swift communication we have received from people who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have had household members test positive. This allows us to take action that will keep the SHS community safe.

If you have any questions about the information I have shared in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact the relevant staff member from the list at the end of this letter.

Sincerely,

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

Doug Tennant

Although SHS has in the past run flu vaccinations campaigns at our office, that is not possible for the COVID-19 vaccinations and people and families will need to book their vaccination appointments using Fraser Health's system.

Additional Support

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

SHS Staff Member	Service/Program
Jasper Macabulos Associate Director of Inclusive Living j.macabulos@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 Associate Director of Community Services 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/>