



HOLY FAMILY STAFF UPDATE

August 24, 2020

TO: All Staff, Medical Staff, Contracted Staff at Holy Family Long Term Care

**FROM: Dr. Patty Daly, Chief Medical Officer for VCH and PHC
Karin Olson, Chief Operating Officer, Vice President, Coastal, VCH
Dr. John Harding, Medical Health Officer, VCH**

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry’s daily release of information today included the following update on Holy Family’s outbreak:

Facility name	Type of facility	HA	Declared over	Total number of cases	Total number of deaths	Number of resident cases	Number of resident deaths	Number of staff/other cases	Number of staff deaths
Holy Family Hospital	Long term care facility	VCH	No	88	21	53	21	35	0

Today marks **31 straight days** without a new COVID-19 positive test for a resident at Holy Family Long Term Care. Holy Family Long Term Care is now COVID free. The last of the COVID-positive residents was cleared last week, bringing the total to 32. All 35 staff had also been previously cleared.

We remember each day the sad loss of 21 residents from COVID-19 during the outbreak, and we deeply mourn their tragic passing.

We remain cautiously optimistic that we’re on a path to ending the outbreak by the end of this month, which is fast approaching.

When the outbreak is declared over by public health, we will communicate to family members and staff right away. In the days following the outbreak ending declaration, we know family members will have many questions regarding visitation and other matters and we are committed to continuing to have timely and transparent communications for family and staff to ensure a smooth transition coming out of the outbreak.

But we can only successfully end the outbreak if there are no new infections between now and the end of the month. That means all staff need to continue to uphold and follow all IPAC protocols and processes to ensure Holy Family remains COVID free.

Staying Vigilant at a Time of Increasing Community COVID Numbers

As we continue to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, it is important we take care of ourselves so we can continue to care of others. The pandemic has made it even more apparent how much our staff and medical staff are the foundation of our health-care system.

Our patients, clients, residents and their families rely on us to provide the care they need, but we also rely on each other to be healthy and safe. Each of you is part of a team, making a positive difference at work and you are valued for your commitment and contributions to delivering exceptional care.

In this new phase of our pandemic response, individuals are expanding their social interactions, and we have recently seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases due to larger social gatherings and private parties. With this in mind, it is important that we all do our part to keep transmission rates low. This means not coming to work when we are sick – even with mild cold-like symptoms. Please know that you are supported in taking the time to get tested, to stay home and recover.

In this current COVID-19 environment, we also need to recognize that our activities and interactions outside of work could have an impact on our colleagues, coworkers, and especially those we care for in our hospitals and in the community. Stay aware of where [exposures have occurred in the community](#) and continue to follow public health recommendations.

Ensuring COVID Safe Activities

Wondering how you can see friends safely during the summer? Or how to work out in a fitness centre? Eat in a restaurant? Spend a day at the beach?

Vancouver Coastal Health is publishing a series of Safe summer guides, where you can find tips on how to enjoy your summer safely. Whether it's stocking up on supplies before leaving for a road trip, wiping down fitness equipment, paying by tap, or collecting contact info at a rec sports game, we have all the information you need to stay safe while having fun.

Check out our [summer guides for having a COVID-19 safe summer](#) and reducing the risk of transmission for yourself, others and your community.

Information for Parents of School-Aged Children

Last week, the Ministry of Education announced updated [health and safety guidelines](#) to help ensure a consistent province-wide approach to keep schools safe for all students, teachers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the guidelines, masks will be required for staff, middle and secondary students in high traffic areas such as buses and in common areas such as hallways, or anytime outside of their learning group whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Exceptions will be made for students who cannot wear masks for medical reasons. The guidelines also cover the key components of delivering K-12 education during the pandemic, including curriculum, report cards, supports for students with disabilities/diverse abilities, and finance and operations. In order to support staff and students to meet this expectation, the

ministry is providing additional funding to school districts that will support the purchase of up to 1.5 million masks, enough for every public-school staff member and student to have at least two masks.

What if my child gets sick or shows symptoms of COVID-19?

If your child has symptoms, follow the guidance from Public Health for testing. You are not required to stay home and quarantine unless you are directed to by Public Health; staff can continue to self-monitor and come to work as long as they are asymptomatic. If you get symptoms, you must self-isolate.

BCCDC advises that if you live in the same household as someone with respiratory symptoms, to do whatever you can to distance yourself from the symptomatic individual (stay in separate rooms, sleep in separate beds, use separate bathrooms, etc.). We recognize this may not be possible for parents with young children who require their care.

Staff who are required to stay home for child care needs can access COVID-19 leave under the Employment Standards Act. Alternatively, if the dates are known in advance, staff can request for the day(s) off using applicable banked time or request an unpaid Leave of Absence; staff may not use sick leave, nor will staff be paid general leave in these cases.

STAFF SUPPORTS:

Your wellness is important & you are not alone:

- Email: covidwellness&support@providencehealth.bc.ca
- Support Line: 604-806-9925 or ext. 69925
 - Provides call-back option, including evenings and weekends
 - To speak with a colleague who is trained to provide Psychological First Aid (PFA) (this is not a crisis line). The voicemail and email will only be checked Monday-Friday between 0830-1630.
- Supports include:
 - Virtual/remote availability PHC trained PFA employees/Psychologists
 - More Urgent Emotional Support: Contact EFAP 24/7 (**until August 31, 2020**): 604-872-4929 or 1-800-505-4929
 - PHC Occupational Health & Safety: Contact: Sandy Coughlin, OH&S Director – 604-806-8635; 604-341-6272