



## HOLY FAMILY STAFF UPDATE

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July 11, 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  
Althea Hayden, Medical Health Officer, VCH**

There is no update today from Provincial Medical Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry's office regarding COVID-19 outbreaks in BC, including at Holy Family Long Term Care. The next public release will be on Monday.

Here are some key points the VCH-PHC Outbreak Management teams wants to reinforce today:

### **Staffing and Shift Work:**

- We've heard reports that some staff may be working 16-hour shifts, putting themselves at risk of fatigue and exhaustion. We will enhance our staffing and scheduling to ensure staff are not made vulnerable through double shifting or consecutive days of long shifts. We want to reinforce with you to please focus on self-care.

### **Staff Testing:**

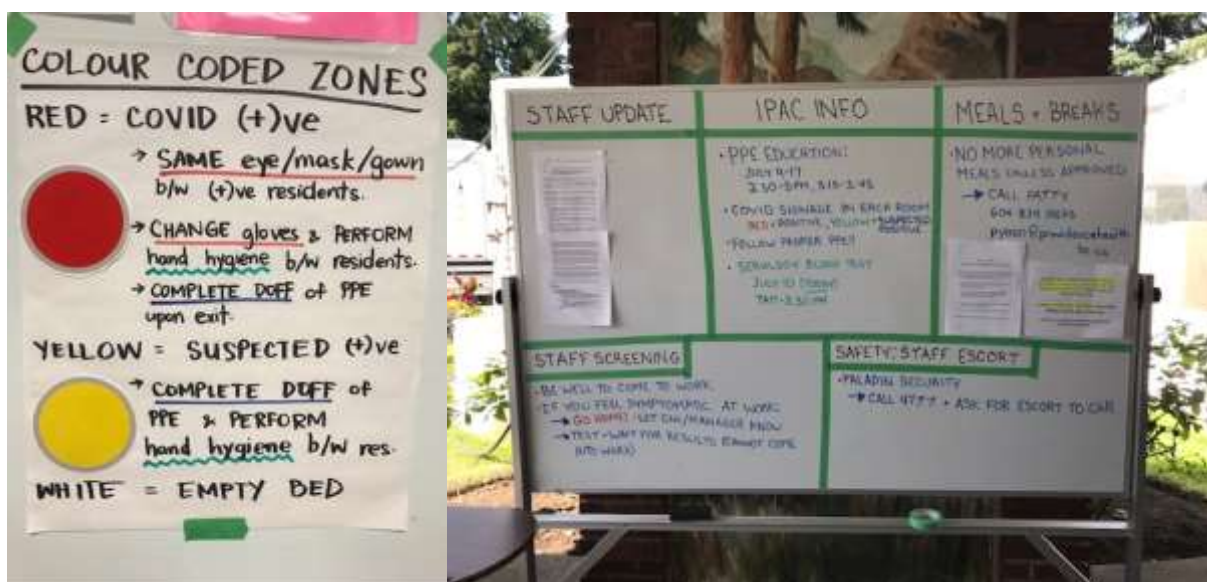
- Because we aren't always able to get the mobile testing van onsite, due to its other commitments in the community, we are working on setting up a testing tent starting next week for two or three days a week, to make it easier for those staff who haven't yet been tested to get their swabs. The tent would be located outside near the entrance to long term care and is expected to be staffed by public health nurses. We will try to schedule its access times to ensure both day and evening staff have a chance to get swabbed.
- Of the 375 Holy Family staff, over 200 have been tested. We need to test the others. Any staff who haven't been tested since the start of the week of June 29, are required to get tested.

### **IPAC/Environment/ "Airborne Virus Question":**

- Environmental organizing and tidying up of residents rooms has begun, with over 10% of residents' rooms completed since last night. This is hard work and kudos to staff and IPAC to work through each resident's personal space to determine the best way to meet residents and infection control needs.
- The utility rooms have also been reorganized, with non-essential items cleared out.

- More garbage bins have been added to ensure cleanliness.
- IPAC is focusing on ensuring shared equipment – blood-pressure cups, pulse oximeters, thermometers, etc. – is cleaned and used properly and exclusively for each resident.
- We are also looking at ensuring all food trays are disposable, whether being served to COVID positive or negative residents.
- Due to numerous media reports and continuing questions regarding the COVID-19 virus, many staff have asked about whether it's an air-borne virus and whether the air circulation system, air conditioning or having fans in rooms present risk of spread. Some have asked if “negative-pressure rooms” are required.
  - IPAC advises that the building’s air circulation system, air conditioning or use of fans in residents’ rooms does not pose a risk of transmission.
  - There can be a risk if nebulizers and other aerosol-generating procedures are being used – and where negative-pressure rooms may be helpful – but those interventions are not occurring at Holy Family currently. If they were required, we would isolate the resident to ensure safety.
  - As the weather gets warm/hot, the use of fans and air conditioning will be ok to deploy.
- Infection Control Practitioners are continuing to provide crucial in-service education to staff, focusing on donning and doffing, discussing where, when and how PPE breaks can most commonly occur, and how best to interrupt transmission of the virus.

Continuing education and sharing of information among staff at Holy Family Long Term Care is crucial. It's encouraging us to see so much of this happening through formal education and training sessions, through people informally talking to each other and through basic tools as boards, posters and signs reinforcing key messages. Below are some pictures of such examples. Thank you to everyone!





A reminder that there are a number of social and psychological supports you can access. Please do not hesitate to reach out for assistance should you require:

**STAFF SUPPORTS:**

Your wellness is important & you are not alone:

- Email: [covidwellness&support@providencehealth.bc.ca](mailto: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: 604-872-4929 or 1-800-505-4929
- PHC Occupational Health & Safety: Contact Sandy Coughlin, OH&S Director – 604-341-6272