

MEMO



Date: November 20, 2020
Bethesda Persons Served,
Families, Staff and Contractors

From: Dan Steenburgh, COO
Tori Dalair, COO

To: _____

Subject: New Provincial Health Officer Order

Dear Bethesda Community,

On November 19, Dr. Bonnie Henry issued a new province-wide order limiting travel and social gatherings. This order has lengthened the previous order issued to the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health regions to December 7, 2020 and extended it to all regions throughout the province. The following requirements will be in place **across all regions** until the completion of the order:

All Services (Staffed Residential, Home Share, Community Inclusion, SIL, Employment)

- All Bethesda services should avoid non-essential social visits and travel outside of the local community, as well as non-essential community activities that pose a high risk of exposure.

Bethesda staffed homes

- All non-essential visitors will be restricted from visiting Bethesda staffed residential homes. Essential visitors include those who are critical for the health and safety of the persons supported during this period.
- All visits to family homes will be suspended.
- During this time, we will encourage and support other ways to connect, such as video conferencing, phone or email. Please speak to a Bethesda staff member if you would like to arrange this.

Home Shares

- Home Shares should restrict visitors to immediate household members and essential supports.
- Wherever possible, please hold off on respite visits until the end of the order. If respite visits are essential, consider additional precautions to reduce the risk of transmission.

These requirements will remain in effect during the Provincial Health Officer order which is in place until **December 7 at midnight**. You can find the full statement from Dr. Henry at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>. We continue to monitor the information from the Provincial Health Office and will keep you informed if there are further changes to these requirements.

We also ask all members of the Bethesda community to continue all COVID-19 precautions and follow all provincial orders to reduce the risks of transmission both within and outside of the workplace.

We know that this is a difficult time for everyone and that restrictions on visitors and social gatherings create additional strain in an already challenging situation. At the same time, we need to ensure the health and safety of the people we support and those that support them, as well as do our part to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 within our province. We pray that you will experience God's protection and comfort as we continue this journey through the pandemic together.

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged – Deuteronomy 13:8