

March 10, 2020

To families of residents at Lynn Valley Care Centre Lodge,

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of a resident, who had tested positive for COVID-19, at Lynn Valley Care Centre Lodge. The resident had underlying health issues and was one of two residents at Lynn Valley Care Centre Lodge who tested positive for COVID-19, in addition to several health care providers. The residents and care providers who tested positive for COVID-19 were immediately placed under isolation for 14 days, per infection control standards.

As a family member to one of the residents at the Lodge, we understand that this is concerning information and we want to provide you with an update on our next steps.

The Lodge is under outbreak precautions with direction from the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) Medical Health Officer. There is an adjacent Manor that is not under outbreak precautions. A VCH Medical Health Officer is leading the outbreak response and is working closely with staff and medical staff to ensure appropriate infection control precautions are in place for the safety of residents, their families and health care providers. The source of the outbreak remains under investigation by Public Health.

VCH leadership is working closely with administrators at the Lodge to provide staffing and operational support to ensure residents continue to receive the care they need. As part of the outbreak, we have activated our response plans – the health and safety of residents and health care providers are our utmost priority.

The risk of the virus spreading in British Columbia continues to remain low at this time. Apart from this outbreak, all cases identified to date in B.C. have been travellers returning from high risk areas of the world and a small number of close household contacts. COVID-19 is transmitted by close contact with those who are symptomatic through droplets, similar to other respiratory diseases such as influenza.

Our advice to residents, visitors and staff is to practice excellent hand hygiene, which includes proper hand-washing with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer and to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and staying home when you are sick.

These simple steps are effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. We are monitoring the situation closely and will provide updates as new information becomes available. We also encourage you to visit www.VCH.ca/COVID19 for up-to-date information on COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Mark Lysyshyn, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Deputy Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health