

March 16, 2020

To families of residents at Lynn Valley Care Centre Lodge,

I am writing to provide you an update on the COVID-19 outbreak at Lynn Valley Care Centre Lodge,

- As of March 16, 2020, there have been 23 confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Lynn Valley Care Centre Lodge: 11 staff and 12 residents. All cases are still believed linked to the original transmission. The week ahead will be key as it will tell us if there are any new transmissions.
- To date, 4 of the residents who tested positive for COVID-19 have died. Families have been notified and our condolences go out to them.

Additional measures being implemented

- **All residents in the lodge are being asked to stay in their rooms, whether symptomatic or not, since the beginning of the outbreak.**
- **We will be implementing a new, voluntary medication protocol involving a medication with evidence of antiviral effects against the virus causing COVID-19. It will be offered to residents as treatment for confirmed cases.**

Measures already in place:

- Lynn Valley Care Centre Lodge is under outbreak precautions. The Manor is NOT.
- This means infection prevention and control measures are in place, including; isolation of cases and suspected cases as they arise, training for staff, signage and hand sanitizer dispensers in key areas, and enhanced cleaning and protective personal equipment.
- Residents residing in the lodge have been isolated and all suspect cases are tested immediately.
- Full personal protective equipment is available and required for staff and visitors if the residents become symptomatic.
- All staff diagnosed with COVID-19 were immediately taken off work and are isolated at home until medically cleared to return to work.
- A Medical Health Officer and other leaders from Vancouver Coastal Health are meeting daily with Lynn Valley Care Centre staff to review the situation and to ensure appropriate infection prevention and control precautions are in place.
- A strategy is in place to address any staffing shortages and identify creative solutions to ensure ongoing care and services.
- We will let families know they will be contacted directly if their family member received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis

Visitors are required to follow the following outbreak practices when visiting the lodge:

- Lynn Valley Care Centre Lodge will continue to accept visitors
- As per provincial guidelines for long term care homes, visitors are restricted to family members and please limit your visit to one resident.
- If you are visiting a resident with symptoms, you must wear full personal protective equipment. Please ask a staff member for assistance if you are not familiar with it.
- Practice excellent hand hygiene, washing your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the building, when entering a resident's room. Encourage your family member to do the same. Cough or sneeze into your elbow. Connect with residents through facial expressions, talking and laughing. Please limit touching.
- Do not visit Lynn Valley Care Centre if you are ill or have symptoms.

If you have questions that are not answered on our website, please contact the front desk at 604.988.4181. We recognize this is a challenging time for you, and the residents and staff at Lynn Valley Care Centre, and we appreciate your patience, support, and strict adherence to the outbreak measures in place. I assure you that we remain committed to the health and safety of residents, families and staff at Lynn Valley Care Centre.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Schwandt

Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health