

# memo



**To:** Agency-Wide/NACL Board of Directors  
**From:** Graham Morry, Executive Director  
**Date:** September 16, 2020  
**Re:** CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND CARF (ACCREDITATION) UPDATE

## Current Situation

Hey folks – hopefully you all had a good summer, and got some time for yourselves. As you are likely aware, we have seen an uptick in COVID-19 cases, with 195 total on Vancouver Island (12 active) out of the total 7,376 BC-wide (1,590 active) as of yesterday afternoon.

I know the past six months have been extremely difficult and we are all suffering from COVID fatigue, but we are clearly not out the woods yet. There have been cases on the lower mainland and Victoria in the Community Living sector, and we will take this opportunity to learn from their experience. Though we are confident in our pandemic plan and corresponding protocols, we will be reviewing our plan through the lens of those agencies who have directly experienced a COVID-19 outbreak.

In additional preparation for what we are thinking may be a long and difficult fall/winter, we are immediately investing in another \$10K of PPE – and do whatever further is required to keep people safe.

## Flu Vaccine

As usual, we will be facilitating flu shots this fall. This year more than any other, we need to take every opportunity to mitigate our exposure to sickness – and I strongly encourage all of you who aren't prevented due to medical reasons to take advantage of flu shots this season.

## Pandemic Pay

On Monday of this week we received the claim form from the Ministry of Finance, which will enable us to submit for the monies to be paid to our front-line workers.

The following is an excerpt from the BC Government website:

***“Temporary pandemic pay supports eligible employees that delivered in-person, front-line care in health, social services and corrections during the 16-week period of March 15 to July 4, 2020.***

***The Province is coordinating with multiple ministry funders and hundreds of service providers across B.C. to ensure that the distribution of funds occurs as quickly and efficiently as possible, and with an accountable process.”***

I would like to thank you all for your patience in this matter, and rest assured we will expedite this and issue manual cheques once the money is received.

**CARF (Accreditation) Update**

We recently received notice from CARF that they will be going ahead with our survey sometime over the October/November period. We have requested the last two weeks in November, but no specific dates have been set just yet.

For the first time, this will be a virtual survey – meaning surveyors will remotely access our data, and do all interviews and site surveys remotely, much of it being done using Microsoft Teams. Any support/training needed to ensure comfort/confidence in using Microsoft Teams will be provided.

We are well prepared for this survey, but further details will be sent out regarding our expectations of staff and all other pertinent information.

**In Conclusion...**

As mentioned last week, I'm back in action and absolutely here for you if you have any questions or concerns. We're all in this together. Please don't hesitate to contact me anytime.

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