

memo



To: Agency-Wide/NACL Board of Directors

From: Graham Morry, Executive Director

Date: April 15, 2020

Re: CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 UPDATE

Current Situation

The past week has continued to see somewhat of a “levelling off” of the number of COVID-19 cases in BC, with 92 most recently reported on Vancouver Island. Having said that, NACL remains steadfast in making every effort to help “flatten the curve” and protect those within our circle.

Mask Use

There has been much discussion around the best use of our mask supply; specifically, the most effective way to protect persons served and our staff who care so ably for them.

As of today, we will be making the following change:

Front-line workers are required to wear masks at all times when providing direct support to individuals (other than on night shifts after people have gone to bed, unless they need to assist someone directly), starting immediately. We have made this decision based on the following factors:

- We have enough stock on hand to carry us approximately four (4) weeks, with confidence that we will receive some assistance from government on the PPE front, as well as in our ability to ongoingly purchase more PPE as stocks become more readily available.
- As people can be asymptomatic (meaning no symptoms), it is difficult to know who may be infected without being tested. As we now have a greater comfort level with our supplies, we feel it prudent to further protect people in care and the staff who support them.

That said, we have a group of staff currently working on creating re-usable/washable masks, with every employee having four (4) masks that they would be responsible for. The handmade masks will also require frequent changing and will need to be washed daily.

All staff must take the competency training posted on ShareVision re the proper donning/doffing of PPE. Further mask/PPE protocols will be updated in NACL’s COVID-19 Exposure and Control Plan, plus posted on ShareVision.

We understand that this may cause some fear and upset among persons served, but we believe this is the safest path forward.

Program Managers will provide more detailed direction specific to our homes, as will other Supervisors to their respective programs.

We will review this decision on an ongoing basis and respond accordingly.

In Conclusion...

Thank you all again for your cooperation and support during this challenging time. Please know I'm available anytime if you have any questions or concerns.

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