

memo



To: Families of Persons Served
From: Randy Humchitt, Deputy Executive Director
Date: March 16, 2020
Re: CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19

We understand the growing concern surrounding Coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst NACL persons served and their families; concerns which we share. We also recognize that there may be specific concerns for specific NACL services: staffed residential; day services (Actions/Lifelong Learning/Snoezelen/NACL Employment Services); and home share.

We will continue to refer to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and other stakeholders/public health agencies to determine the safest course of action as we move forward.

Universally, it is suggested that we observe the recommendations of public health officials including:

- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water;
- Covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing;
- Avoiding others who are unwell;
- Observing social distancing (maintaining three feet of space between persons); and
- Staying at home if you are sick.

In residential and day services, staff have been instructed to avoid outings to crowded places. Outdoor venues such as the beach and hiking trails in quieter areas are encouraged. It is suggested that Home Share Providers do the same.

For all NACL services, it is asked that non-essential visits to residences/day services/home share be avoided, in order to reduce the risk of potential exposure to COVID-19.

Staffed Residential Services

NACL has a Pandemic Plan (attached) which includes directives to ensure continuity of care for persons served in NACL staffed services during pandemic events. This, as well as a memo circulated to the association by Graham Morry on March 11, is included herein.

Day Services (Actions/Lifelong Learning/Snoezelen/NACL Employment Services)

The NACL Pandemic Plan is applicable to day services as well.

We will continue to operate day services in line with health authority recommendations, and any closures will be communicated to persons served and families soon as possible. We will also be watching for recommendations regarding school and daycare closures in BC as a factor in our decision-making process. Individuals displaying symptoms of COVID-

19 will be required to stay home/refrain from entering programs and should contact their doctor and/or the nurse line at 8-1-1.

Home Share Services

As independent contractors, it is the responsibility of Home Share Providers to ensure the well-being and continuity of service for persons served in pandemic and all circumstances. Home Share Providers may opt to adopt NACL's Pandemic Plan to their residences, and are advised to follow the direction of health authorities.

Home Share Managers are available to providers for consultation and support, and NACL has a procedure for coordinating emergency respite for persons served in home share, should the need arise.

The safety of persons served and those that support them in all NACL services is our top priority, and we will provide updates as necessary.

In the meantime, should you have questions and/or feedback, please feel free to contact me at 250-741-0224 ext. 226.

More information about COVID-19 can be found at:

[http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))