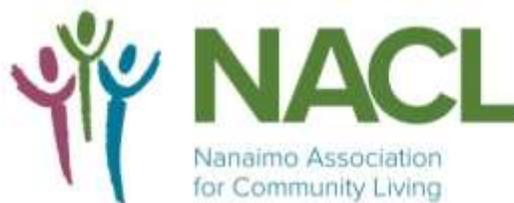


memo



To: Agency-Wide/NACL Board of Directors

From: Graham Morry, Executive Director

Date: January 6, 2021

Re: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Current Situation

Hi everyone – Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good Christmas, and are looking forward to a reprieve from the pandemic and its safety protocols – which if all goes well, we can expect towards the end of the year.

As of yesterday, the BC government dashboard reported 428 new cases of COVID-19 – nine (9) of which were on Vancouver Island. Island Health shows there were 122 active cases as of January 5th, with 40 of them being in Central Vancouver Island; the second-highest of the three regions.

While this is an encouraging downward trend, given the ongoing concern and the fact that we're still waiting to see if there's a post-holiday spike, we will not be relaxing protocols for the time being – and likely not for some months yet.

Vaccinations

As you are likely aware, vaccinations have begun – with the most vulnerable being inoculated first. We haven't heard when to expect our vaccines, but we have reached out to Island Health and are awaiting a response (though "word on the street" is February/March). Our position is that the people we support and the staff who care for them should be among the first round, and we will advocate for that outcome.

Pandemic Pay

I'm sorry to say that there is no new news, other than government hopes to have monies out before the end of January – and if we receive the funds sooner, you will be the first to know.

In Conclusion...

Since we know we've got a while yet before COVID-19 will be behind us, we will reduce the frequency of these memos to the first Wednesday of the month for now, unless there are any significant developments.

In the meantime, take care and be safe – and let's look forward to a much better 2021! Please contact me anytime if you have any questions or concerns.

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