

memo



To: Agency-Wide/NACL Board of Directors
From: Randy Humchitt, Deputy Executive Director
Date: August 19, 2020
Re: CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 UPDATE

Current Situation

The upturn in cases of late for COVID-19 in BC continues. As of yesterday, there have been 4,677 total cases, with 156 of those now being on Vancouver Island (including two new cases). Internally, several staff have become symptomatic and (fortunately) tested negative for COVID-19.

Based on these numbers, and in anticipation of a continued increase in COVID-19 cases, it is as critical as it ever was to follow the **NACL COVID-19 Exposure and Control Plan**, including the guidelines for PPE. Staff must always wear masks during their shift, unless otherwise specified in the plan.

“COVID Fatigue” is real. It is hard to wear masks. It is hard to feel cooped up. It is hard to deal with fear and anxiety. The vast amount of information coming at us about COVID-19 can be exhausting to sift through. I want to acknowledge that because it’s important to talk about, and it can affect all of us.

Our Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) has several online resources that can support us as we continue to navigate this pandemic, while being mindful of our mental health. There are many articles available online to review about COVID Fatigue, that include strategies for reduction/elimination of it.

Whether you are COVID fatigued or not, please remember the diligence you’ve all exhibited to date; diligence that has kept the people we serve (and yourselves) safe. The ongoing health and wellness of the people we serve depends on your continued vigilance, as we fight this pandemic together.

EFAP support can be found online here: <https://www.lifeworks.com/ca>

Pandemic Pay

We received an update from the Community Social Services Employers’ Association (CSSEA) and BC Housing on August 18th regarding the pandemic pay – the funds are expected to begin flowing to employees in the fall. This isn’t as good as saying “The monies will be paid out on x date,” we know, but it is an indication that the funds are coming sooner rather than later. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

In Conclusion...

Thank you all for your excellent work and commitment to everyone at NACL, especially the people we support. You are the heart and soul of what we do.

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