

COVID-19 AND GROUP HOME, HOME SHARING

STAFFED RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS

Preamble:

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) is a crown corporation that provides funding to contracted service providers to deliver community inclusion (day program) and residential supports including group homes and home sharing to adults with developmental disabilities. CLBC is governed by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR), and CLBC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is guided by directives and public policy generated by the Provincial Health Office and WorkSafeBC specific to ***Community Social Services Pandemic Guidelines***.

Staffed residential group home facilities and home sharing placements funded by CLBC are not Long-Term Care facilities. These community living supports are designated essential services that operate as supportive living sites to ensure that the adults with developmental disabilities who live in these homes are supported to engage with their communities to the best of their potential.

Group home staff and/or home sharing providers who call 811 seeking guidance and support related to COVID pandemic issues should be responded to under guidelines that govern community social services, and not the guidelines that govern the Long-Term Care sector.

CLBC and its service provider and home sharing provider partners appreciate the pressure that our health system is under and that information on COVID-19 and best practices are constantly evolving – sometimes daily.


To help address these challenges and to help local health authorities, '811' teams, service providers, and home sharing providers respond most effectively to disability sector needs, CLBC and Fraser Health collaborated to develop this guidance document which is intended to:

- Inform CLBC funded service providers to know who may be involved and for what purpose when CLBC supported individuals are tested positive.
- Support tracking and keep information base updated and current as much as is possible.
- Support CLBC service providers in taking proactive measures by keeping residential settings safe and taking immediate actions for keeping the virus from spreading.

This reference document is for service providers delivering staffed residential or group home and home sharing services in the Fraser Health Authority. The document outlines the respective roles and responsibilities for COVID 19 follow up in a group home, home sharing site, or other staffed residential setting. These guidelines are specific to:

- Public Health,
- Service Provider Leadership/Site Leadership (i.e. group home or staffed residential programs),
- CLBC supported home sharing sites
- Health Services for Community Living (HSCL), and
- Community Living BC (CLBC).

1. Prevention and Readiness:

Serviced providers and home sharing providers provide pandemic response leadership through their pandemic response plans and their operational practices and are responsible for implementing measures to prevent and mitigate exposure and cross contamination of COVID 19. Service providers must assess their site's readiness in case of an exposure or positive case of COVID 19 by a staff or resident. The attached prevention audit tool is available should a service provider and/or a home sharing provider choose to use it (access the tool by double clicking the paperclip icon): 

2. General inquiries:

- For general information and updates, refer to these web sites:
 - Ministry of Health and Public Health news: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/health>
 - BC Centre for Disease Control: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>
 - CLBC information: <https://www.communitylivingbc.ca/for-service-providers/information-about-the-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-for-clbc-funded-service-providers/>

For non-medical information about COVID-19, including the latest information on travel recommendations and physical distancing, you can also call Service BC **1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319) via call or text**. Information is available in more than 110 languages, 7:30 am - 8 pm.

- For any medical questions regarding a possible exposure or COVID symptoms, call **8-1-1** to talk to a registered nurse.
- To speak with Fraser Health Public Health, call the central phone line at 604-587-3936. Please ask for the COVID general inquires team for your area

3. Symptomatic staff or residents prior to any confirmed case at site:

- Symptomatic residents – Residents that demonstrate symptoms consistent with COVID 19 should have support staff call 811 to take direction on the need to be tested and should isolate from others pending results.
- Symptomatic staff – Staff that demonstrate symptoms consistent with COVID 19 should stay home, call 811 and take direction on the need to be tested and isolate from others pending results.

4. COVID 19 case identified (Resident or Staff):

Public Health Role

- Public Health is notified of all positive COVID cases by the lab.
- Upon case notification, Public Health will:
 - ✓ Contact the individual case and site directly to inform and conduct case interview
 - ✓ Request information such as staff and resident lists, details on site layout
 - ✓ Arrange a telephone meeting with site leadership
 - ✓ Complete contact tracing and share communications with site leadership for notification
 - ✓ Provide guidance on infection control measures
 - ✓ Provide recommendations for testing
 - ✓ Provide isolation or monitoring requirements
 - ✓ Specific Public Health contact information will be provided at the time of initial meeting with the site
 - ✓ Consultation with Medical Health Officers will occur as needed to inform recommendations

- Public Health will be in contact with site leadership, exposed staff and residents daily for the duration of the incubation period or outbreak – whichever is longer.
- Public Health will provide notification letters as required for staff, residents and families regarding the exposure. Public Health may work with service providers and/or home share providers to assist with engaging with families.
- Public Health will engage with Licensing as needed to support site assessment and response.

Site Leadership (Service Provider/Home Sharing Provider) Role

- The service provider and/or home sharing provider will identify the leader(s) responsible for communicating with Public Health and provide the contact information of that person(s).
- The site leader will provide information to assist Public Health to complete a site assessment and determine follow up. Information requested will include:
 - information about staff who worked during the exposure period;
 - information about residents;
 - site layout, and
 - current infection/prevention processes in place including use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Sites are expected to adhere to the guidance and recommendations provided by Public Health.
- Site leadership will distribute communications to those exposed/affected as directed by Public Health
- Site leaders may need to participate in regular calls with Public Health to support coordination of response.
- Site leaders will inform CLBC and complete a Critical Incident Report, if a resident has tested positive or been exposed by a staff person (or others) that has tested positive for COVID 19. Site leaders will maintain contact with CLBC to provide information regarding follow up occurring at their site

Community Living BC (CLBC) Leadership Role

- The Director, Regional Operations will be notified of a positive case in a CLBC contracted site/group home directly by the group home operator/home sharing provider. The group home operator/home sharing provider may inform the Director, Regional Operations via their typical CLBC contact such as their regional office CLBC Analyst, Facilitator, or Integrated Services Manager.



- Upon request from the Service Provider (Site Leadership), or if Public Health identifies ongoing concerns with the site, provide additional supports as available.
- CLBC Director will connect with Fraser Health leadership if additional support is needed, e.g. PPE, professional support from HSCL, etc.

Fraser Health - Health Supports for Community Living (HSCL) Leadership Role

HSCL leadership will be notified of a positive case in a CLBC contracted site/group home by the group home operator or home share provider. As a notification redundancy safety protocol; CLBC may also inform Fraser health – HSCL of any positive case in a CLBC contracted site/group ho