

Subject: COVID-19 Update - March 24, 2020
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 4:28:07 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Ernie Baatz
To: Ernie Baatz
Attachments: image001.jpg

Hello Spectrum Staff, Contractors, People we support, and their families;

We received two updates from CLBC in the past 24 hours:

1. [An CLBC update for Home Share Contractors](#)

2. [A shared update from CLBC and the Provincial Health Office:](#)

A key message in this update addressed the safety of people we support:

“For the vast majority of supported individuals the safest place for them right now is at home. That is why if you haven’t already done so we are requiring you to work with families, home share providers, and other support agencies to quickly transition supports to be provided from or in the individual’s home.”

We have been following the guidelines that CLBC has outlined here by talking with individuals and families to confirm what supports they require while following the provincial direction to stay at home. When staff are not needed for community activities we re-assign them to places where we need additional support.

From the Provincial Government, there were significant announcements:

1. There was an amendment to the Employment Standards Act to protect people’s employment:
 - a. Announcement: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020LBR0012-000551>
 - b. Fact Sheet: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19_Job_Protected_Leave_Factsheet.pdf
2. Changes will allow workers to immediately take unpaid, job-protected leave if they are unable to work for reasons relating to COVID-19. This means workers who are ill, need to self-isolate, need to care for their child or other dependent, or whose employer is concerned that the employee may expose others to risk, will be able to take leave without putting their job at risk.
3. To better support workers on an ongoing basis, the changes also provide up to three days of unpaid, job-protected leave each year for people who cannot work due to illness or injury. This is a permanent change to the act that brings B.C. in line with all other provinces in Canada.
4. There is a new tool to assist you with COVID-19 – an app and website tool that provides a questionnaire and advice.
 - a. <https://bc.thrive.health>
 - b. The app will let you receive the latest updates, trusted resources, and alerts. The Self-Assessment Tool is built in. It helps you by gathering information from you in a questionnaire and telling you what next steps should be followed.

And now for some hopeful news: PLAN has been gathering ideas for keeping people socially connected. I've heard people now talking more about physical distancing rather social distancing, because we all need social connections, even if we have to stay home.

STAYING SOCIALLY *connected* DURING THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

PLAN – Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network – www.plan.ca Has Five Ideas to get you started:

1. Don't wait to be asked – offer help to people you think might need some assistance.
2. Make it a team effort – create a small group
3. The latest technology helps – Use What's App, Slack, Zoom, Facebook, NextDoor – lots of ways to keep in touch
4. Little things make a big difference
5. The majority of people care and want to help.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Ernie Baatz

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Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

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