

Subject: COVID-19 Update - March 30 2020

Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 at 7:44:06 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Ernie Baatz

To: Ernie Baatz

Good Evening;

As we enter another week of our collective efforts to curb the spread of Covid-19, we wanted to take a moment to recognize the contributions of all our staff, caregivers and families who have rallied to support Spectrum to continue providing the best possible service to those who need us most at this time. We know it hasn't been easy. We know many of you have had to adjust your usual schedules and routines to accommodate the changing needs and reduce the in-person interactions. We are truly grateful, and we want you to know we are here for all of you and doing everything we can to ease the burden on our front line supporters.

Our HR team is working hard to keep track of Spectrum employees who have been displaced or reassigned, or who are off ill, to ensure that people have continuity in their employment and their income. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Rachel or Naomi.

Jeriah Newman and our office manager Judy Smith have taken on responsibility for sourcing and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) – gloves, masks, gowns – and household essentials like cleaning supplies and paper products. As you've probably seen in the news, there is a shortage of PPE and like everyone else we have been challenged to find enough supplies but just yesterday one of our managers, Ruth, located a supply of masks and snapped them up! We are very pleased to be able to provide masks to all of our teams now. While masks are not required unless someone is ill, we know that some of you would prefer to wear a mask for extra protection and reassurance. We will be distributing masks in pre-set quantities, with instructions for their use. For anyone who is ill or showing symptoms, we will follow the direction of their health care professionals, including the need for enhanced PPE.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We'll get through this together!

Cleaning Guidelines

We've been getting a lot of questions about cleaning: how to keep the homes clean, how often staff should be cleaning, what products to use?

The frequency of cleaning will vary from one home to another. In a small household with just one or two people who aren't leaving the home or coming into contact with others, the risk of infection is much lower than a busy household with many people coming and going. A larger household with many people coming through will require a more thorough cleaning each day, and frequent cleaning of shared items and surfaces throughout the day.

Wear gloves

Disposable gloves should be used for cleaning and discarded after use. Gloves should also be used for doing laundry and handling any soiled bedding or clothing. If reusable rubber gloves are used for cleaning, they should be stored separately from disposable gloves and clearly dedicated for cleaning purposes only.

Shift changes

Having a simple cleaning routine at the start and end of your shift can help keep you and everyone else safe. Have a designated spot in the home for staff to put their coats, backpacks, etc., ideally right inside the entry to the home. Start your shift by washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Use disinfectant wipes or a clean cloth with disinfectant solution to wipe down any shared household items that you'll be using – computer keyboard, remote control, etc. Wash your hands before you leave. Take all your personal belongings home with you.

Touch points

Touch points are places that people are touching frequently – countertops, doorknobs, light switches, faucets. These surfaces require frequent cleaning.

Clean first, disinfect second

Be sure to wipe up any spills or residue before disinfecting, so you're eliminating the source of the problem first and not just covering it up or spreading it around.

Cleaning products

Most common household cleaners will do the job. If you are using bleach, a 10% solution is all you need (1 part bleach to 10 parts water). A spray bottle works best for bleach solution. When mixing a bleach solution, work in a safe area (outside if possible) and protect yourself and the surrounding area from possible spills or splashing. Keep bleach and other cleaning products safely stored, away from food. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for any cleaning products – READ THE LABELS!

Separate your supplies

Cloths and gloves used for cleaning should be clearly identifiable as such and stored separately from cloths that are used for other purposes. Dishcloths and tea towels should not be used for cleaning the house. Keep cloths used to clean the kitchen separate from those used to clean the bathroom!

What will change in Canada and the World because of COVID-19?

The Tyee interviewed a number of Canadians about what they can see changing because of the impact of COVID-19 on our society. Read the article to learn more:

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2020/03/27/Tiny-Virus-Big-Picture/>

Over the past week The Tyee posed that question to activists, journalists, filmmakers, artists, caregivers, party promoters and others with keen insight into the truths that COVID-19 is making plainly visible. Using this [U.S.-focused Politico story](#) as a jumping off point, they described monumental changes to our way of life that only weeks ago may have seemed unthinkable — everything from the food we grow to the art we produce. The ways we care for our most vulnerable, the political stories we tell ourselves or even the places we party and dance are all up for renegotiation.

Remember the three keys:

1. Wash your hands.
2. Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
3. Stay home if you are sick.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living