

Subject: COVID-19 Updates - November 27, 2020

Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 at 11:29:38 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Ernie Baatz

To: Ernie Baatz

Staying Safe and Healthy

The basics of keeping the people we support, our teams and your families Healthy and Safe are important to practice every day:

- Stay home if you sick – Call 811 for further directions – Contact HR before you return to work
- Wash your hands regularly
- Keep your distance – at least two metres or six feet from people outside your bubble
- Wear a mask on transit, in stores, in all indoor public spaces.
- Keep your social bubble small – But stay connected with friends and family. Phone, video chat, go for a walk outside – it is so important to keep in touch.

Thank you to everyone for the amazing job everyone has done over the past eight months!

Pay during Testing and Isolation

Staying home if you are sick or have been directed to isolate is very important safety step. We want to make sure employees don't lose paid hours though, so we will pay for scheduled shifts that employees must cancel because they have symptoms or have been directed to isolate while waiting for test results or because Health has directed the employee to isolate and monitor for symptoms.

If you have symptoms, call your manager and HR to let them know you cannot work and your manager will confirm pay for shifts with HR.

This is a short term response to ensure we are doing everything we can to keep our teams safe and healthy. It applies to all staff – full-time, part-time and casual staff. We will pay for up to one week of shifts and will provide this benefit until March 31, 2021.

Let us know if you have questions.

There is a new program from the Canadian government to help employees who must be off longer due to COVID-19:

- [Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit](#) – pays \$500 (taxable) for each 1-week period that you are unable to work.
- As well, [EI sickness benefits](#) have been modified to allow greater eligibility and coverage.

Taking Care of Ourselves

The colder weather is here, the COVID-19 numbers are increasing, and our bubbles are decreasing. It's no wonder some of us are feeling a little anxious or depressed. We are all working hard to stay well this season, and we would like to share a few helpful sites:

- [Benefits of thinking positively, and how to do it](#)
- [10 things you can do to stay positive during COVID-19](#)
- [Virtual mental health supports during COVID-19](#)
- [What to do if you are anxious or worried about COVID-19](#)

Upcoming CLBC Teleconference

- CLBC's next teleconference call for service providers and home sharing providers with Dr. Behn Smith is now confirmed. Find the details below:
- **Date:** December 8, 2020
Time: 1 – 2:15 p.m.
Call in: Vancouver 604-681-0260, Elsewhere 1-877-353-9184
Participant code: 37568#

Getting a Flu Shot

Now more than ever, getting a flu shot is an important step to protect yourself and those around you. A flu shot can reduce your chance of developing symptoms that resemble COVID-19 which would require you to get tested and self-isolate. This can increase wait times at testing centres as well as test results and can delay the identification of COVID-19 cases.

Getting a flu shot is the best way to protect yourself and others against influenza, especially when used with other infection prevention practices such as proper hand hygiene and staying home from work or school when sick, even with mild symptoms.

Where you can get a flu shot:

- VCH Public Health clinics
- Your family doctor
- Walk-in clinics
- Your pharmacist
- Urgent & primary care centres

Find a location

Appointments are strongly recommended this year to help us maintain physical distancing and to reduce wait times.

[More information on flu shots at Vancouver Coastal Health](#) (Vancouver, Richmond, North Shore, Sunshine Coast)

[More information on flu shots at Fraser Health](#) (Burnaby, New West, Delta, Surrey, Coquitlam, Fraser Valley)

Temporary Pandemic Pay – Still Waiting...

We are still waiting for the funding to arrive so that we can provide the Temporary Pandemic Pay to employees who worked between March 15 to July 4th, 2020. We will keep you updated.

Have a quiet weekend!

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

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Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe