

**Subject:** COVID-19 Updates - Sept 11, 2020 - Transitioning to Fall  
**Date:** Friday, September 11, 2020 at 11:18:27 AM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Ernie Baatz  
**To:** Ernie Baatz  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

## **Transitioning to Fall**

With summer winding down and Covid-19 still very much a part of our lives, it's a good time to review and refresh our safety measures. The number of new cases in BC is on the rise. We are at a critical juncture where our collective efforts will make a real difference. It's more important than ever that we stick to the practices that we know are effective at limiting the spread:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash hands frequently
- Maintain safe distance
- Wear a mask if safe distance cannot be maintained

It was great to see people enjoying many of their usual summer activities, including travelling to other parts of the province for some and reconnecting with family and friends for others. Dr. Henry is asking everyone now to revisit their safety plans including reducing their contacts back to a smaller bubble as we head indoors for the fall and winter.

Here at Spectrum we are reviewing the safety measures we've put in place for each individual, including contingency plans in the event that someone becomes ill with Covid-19. We have been very successful so far with preventing spread of the virus but we know that the risks are still very real and outbreaks are still happening in other settings. We need to be prepared. We will continue to focus on smaller teams and fewer work locations for each of our staff. Thank you to all our staff for their understanding and support, we know it hasn't been easy. Thank you to our HR team for their creativity and leadership, balancing our need for reduced contacts to protect the people we support with the needs of our staff for employment security. Thank you to our front line supervisors for their flexibility with the many schedule changes, organizing PPE, and increased training requirements that have become part of the new normal.

### **Covid Relief Team**

A critical piece of our pandemic planning is to ensure that we have enough staff not only to meet the day to day needs of each team but also to provide essential care and support if someone becomes ill with Covid-19. The first and best option would be for those who are closest to the person to continue providing support, but where this is not possible or if staff also become ill, we will need a pool of people to draw from who can step in and provide additional support.

We are inviting Spectrum employees who have some extra capacity to join our Covid Relief Team. This team will provide backup support to our existing teams in the event of an outbreak. Support could be either in-person direct care – working in the home alongside existing team members – or supplemental support, such as delivering meals to the home or assisting with administrative tasks. If you are interested or want to learn more, please contact our [HR department](#) or email [susan@spectrumsociety.org](mailto:susan@spectrumsociety.org). We will be hosting an information session to provide more information and answer questions. Staff who are selected for the Covid Relief Team will be fully trained and compensated for their time, including their attendance at training sessions and team meetings. If you are interested or want to learn more about this opportunity, please let us know!

Dr. Jennifer Baumbusch and Dr. Tim Stainton of our Institute are the Canadian researchers involved in an international survey on the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

Please help us by sharing this survey widely to your contacts within Canada. The study is led by the UCD Centre for Disability Studies in Ireland and has a team of 26 researchers working in 19 countries. This survey has full ethical approval and is entirely anonymous.

We want to recruit participants who are 18 years or older and are either (1) a family member of a person of any age who has an intellectual and developmental disability, or (2) a paid staff member supporting a person or persons of any age who has intellectual and developmental disabilities. We estimate the survey will take about 25 minutes to complete.

[Please click here to take the survey](#)

L'enquête est également disponible en français via le même lien

Thank you in advance. Your data will help provide a picture of the experiences of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers during a pandemic in Canada.

The survey is open until September 20, 2020.

## Provincial News Announcements

### September 9, 2020 – [Premier’s Announcement on Fall and Winter Preparedness for COVID-19](#)

The Province is investing \$1.6 billion in a fall and winter preparedness plan that will significantly build upon and strengthen measures that respond to the health-care requirements of COVID-19.

The plan will provide new support to seniors in long-term care homes and assisted-living facilities, by ensuring more British Columbians than ever before can get a flu shot, and by reducing the chance for transmission of COVID-19 in B.C. hospitals.

**New health care supports  
to prepare for the fall**

- 2 million flu vaccines
- 7000 new jobs and free training as health care workers
- New Hospital at Home program
- More support in long-term care homes

COVID-19 IN BC

### September 10, 2020 – [Joint Statement on BC’s COVID-19 Response](#)

Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.’s provincial health officer, have issued the following joint statement regarding updates on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) response in British Columbia:

“Today, we are announcing 139 new cases, for a total of 6,830 cases in British Columbia.

“There are 1,412 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, 3,109 people who are under active public health monitoring as a result of identified exposure to known cases and 5,190 people who tested positive have recovered.

“Currently, 42 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 14 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people with COVID-19 are recovering at home in self-isolation.

...

“This is our time to be steady in our actions and ready for what lies ahead.

“Every day we learn more about COVID-19 – the sources of transmission and the actions to take to protect ourselves. While there are many resources available to guide your actions and decision-making, your first stop should be [the BCCDC website](#), where the latest information is available.

“What we do today makes a difference tomorrow and in the weeks ahead. **By choosing to wash our hands regularly, keep our social interactions small and with those we know, and always staying home when ill, will ensure we remain strong in B.C.**”

Let us know if you have any questions or need assistance with anything.

**Ernie Baatz**

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

[www.spectrumsociety.org](http://www.spectrumsociety.org)

cell: 604-644-1474

**Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe**