



Covid-19

Residents Update – July 3rd, 2020

The long-awaited easing of visitor restrictions in assisted living and long-term care was announced on June 30th by Dr. Bonnie Henry on behalf of the Ministry of Health. It is not an open invitation to ‘throw caution to the wind’ but it does allow us to open up to family/friends coming into The Cedars for social visits.

Under these new guidelines, residents will be able to visit with **one** family member or friend at a time for the month of July. The Ministry will reassess in August in the hope that it will be able to expand this order to safely include other family members or friends.

Island Health requires us to submit a plan, no later than July 10th, informing them how we will manage the opening to social visitations. We will be submitting our draft plan today, July 3rd and begin a trial with the new guidelines on Monday, July 6th. Depending on the response from Island Health, the plan may need to be adjusted.

The requirements that we must meet, according to the Ministry of Health, are a little stricter and require us to screen more carefully those that enter our building. In fairness, the rationale is that as we open up, risk increases, therefore protocols need to be enhanced.

We have been given an expanded list of questions and all visitors must bring and wear a medical grade mask. (We are hoping for clearance on personal, homemade masks but have not yet received this.)

- Social visits (as different from essential) are to be booked in advance, with a date and time. A maximum of ONE visitor is allowed for 1 hour.
- Visitors will be restricted to your apartment and are not to be in the common areas i.e. laundry room, mail room etc.
- All visitors must enter the building by the main door and respond to questions presented by our Greeter. They will be required to sign in at the front desk and sign out when they leave. A staff member is then required to sanitize the visiting area.
- It is still possible to book a patio table for visiting should you prefer to be outside but numbers must now be restricted to ONE person and for a maximum of 1 hour.
- Scheduled visits are to occur outside of meal times.
- Residents who insist on leaving the building for non-essential activities are advised to take every precaution as per directed by the BC Centre for Disease Control, including avoiding large gatherings, staying away from people who are ill, maintaining safe physical distance and wearing a mask when in enclosed spaces such as transit, taxis, cars or stores.
- If we experience a Covid-19 outbreak the Cedars will be immediately closed to all visitors.

Thank you.

Karen Hope,
Executive Director