
January 7, 2022

To: Families and Friends of Luther Court Society
From: Karen Johnson-Lefsrud, Chief Executive Officer

Re: Update regarding current conditions at Luther Court

Dear Family and Friends,

As I mentioned in my previous update of 2 days ago, we are in the midst of a very fluid situation, with protocols changing rapidly. I am writing to give you further details as it pertains to visitors at Luther Court in light of the new restrictions put in place by Dr. Henry and Minister Dix beginning January 1, 2022.

I need to tell you that the Health Authority has informed us that they have now extended the visitation restrictions to our tenants living in Assisted and Independent housing. I know that many of you were pleased to be outside those restrictions, but in light of the high rate of transmissibility of the Omicron variant, and how quickly it is spreading amongst congregate living settings for seniors, they have now included assisted and independent living settings where they share the same entrances and common spaces with long term care. This certainly makes sense to us from an infection control perspective, but I apologize for the “yo-yo” effect of instructions that have gone out over the last week. Things are changing rapidly. We are trying our best to stay abreast of the current protocols. The restriction for visitors for tenants living in assisted and independent living will take effect on Monday, January 10th.

The closure to visitors does still allow for two kinds of visitors. All visitors (with the exception of end-of-life visits) must be fully vaccinated. Essential visitors are allowed – and this is a designation that is made upon determining that an ongoing essential need can be filled only by a particular visitor. I am re-attaching the Essential Visitor guidelines – and you can let us know if you would like to apply for this specified role. In addition, every resident or tenant is entitled to one designated social visitor.

Effective immediately we are asking families of long term care residents and our tenants living in assisted or independent living to designate **one person as the designated social visitor**. You will need to **designate one family member or one friend** as the only visitor. Please forward the resident name and designated visitor name to Carolyn Hoekstra (our Manager of Community & Support Services) by emailing choekstra@luthercourt.org. A Designated Social Visitor form is attached. All visitors must undergo a rapid test prior to visiting. The rapid testing will begin at latest, on Tuesday, January 11th, to ensure we have time to train our screening staff to oversee this testing. Please allow an additional 15 minutes for this testing to occur, as it takes that

period of time for the test results to be known. All essential or designated social visitors must visit only in the resident rooms or tenant suites, and you must be masked at all times, including in the resident room or tenant suite.

With all the changes afoot, we recommend as always that it is advisable to visit the website for the BC Centre for Disease Control at www.bccdc.ca This site continues to be the most reliable place to glean up-to-date information.

Our chaplain, Ed Chell, is available to talk with you. He is a good listener and is happy to help as he can. Ed can be reached by emailing echell@luthercourt.org or by calling 250-477-7241 ext. 23.

We are very aware of how difficult and disappointing this latest turn of events is for those who live at Luther Court and those who love them and want to be with them. We hope that the closure is of a short duration. In the meantime we know that we are again pulling together to protect this vulnerable population from exposure to COVID-19. Thank you for your support and understanding. We will be in touch next week about opportunities for those who are not able to visit in-person to continue to stay in touch with their loved one.

We are grateful for your prayers. You are in our prayers.