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June 14, 2022

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

Dear Family and Friends,

This update serves to bring you up-to-date on life at Luther Court and communicates information that we believe would be helpful for you to have.

The protocols as it pertains to COVID-19 in long-term care/assisted/independent living have not changed since I last wrote to you. The current protocols are listed below for your perusal.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT PROTOCOLS FOR VISITATION – as of June 14, 2022?**

1. Residents and tenants of Luther Court continue to be able to welcome multiple visitors.
2. All visitors continue to be required to be fully vaccinated – and must undergo a rapid test prior to visiting. Because rapid tests are now widely available from pharmacies at no cost to the public, the regulations allow you to test at home, so you do not have to wait at Luther Court for the test results. We require that you have tested at home within 48 hours of visiting here. And, if you visit regularly at Luther Court, that you are testing at home 3 times per week. You can of course, still test at our screening station on-site prior to proceeding to your visit, if that is your preference.
3. Visitation continues to be allowed only in resident rooms or apartments. The common spaces are still reserved for residents/tenants and staff only
4. Mask wearing is still required in our building in any common space; however, you are allowed to remove your mask in the personal space of your loved one.
5. Residents and tenants continue to be free to leave the building with you for visits and appointments
6. Detailed information on visitation to long term care and assisted/independent living co-located with long term care can be found on the BCCDC website:  
[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/Visitors Long-Term Care Seniors Assisted Living.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/Visitors_Long-Term_Care_Seniors_Assisted_Living.pdf)

**Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The AGM of the Luther Court Society was held yesterday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a good time to review the work of the Society over the past year and to realize the many accomplishments that we have done together, even in the midst of the challenges of another pandemic year. I am grateful to the members of the Society who joined us for a Zoom AGM – and we long for a time when we will be able to meet in person again. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Luther Court Society, you can do so by going to our website,

[www.luthercourt.org](http://www.luthercourt.org). An annual membership is \$20 or a lifetime membership for \$200. Having the involvement of the community in our organization is one of its strengths. We encourage you to consider that option.

### **Community Health Centre**

The Community Health Centre has had a “soft start” and we have begun to attach patients. The attachment is slower than anticipated because we are not yet able to occupy our beautiful new space that has been created to house the Health Centre. We are still awaiting the arrival of a piece of equipment - an air-handling unit that is delayed in current supply chain shortages and is essential to have in place in order to receive the required occupancy permit. For those who have reached out to us to inquire about how you register to be a patient of the health centre, there is now a process in place to accommodate this. We are taking patients from the Health Connect Registry on the Health link BC website. Please enroll in the Health Connect Registry on the Health link BC website to add your name to the waitlist for a provider. To be eligible, you must be without a medical practitioner or have received word that your physician or nurse practitioner is closing their practice. Persons who are already attached to a family physician or nurse practitioner are not eligible for this service.

Please watch our website ([www.luthercourt.org](http://www.luthercourt.org)) for the latest information about this exciting new development at Luther Court.

### **Supportive Conversation with Pastor Ed**

As ever, our chaplain, Ed Chell, is available to talk with you. He is a good listener and is happy to help as he can. Attached is a reflective piece that Pastor Ed has written. I commend it to you. Ed can be reached by emailing [echell@luthercourt.org](mailto:echell@luthercourt.org) or by calling 250-477-7241 ext. 23.

### **Care to Chat**

Thank you to all who joined us for a virtual Care to Chat session, which occurred on May 9<sup>th</sup>. It is always heartening to have this opportunity for engagement and dialogue. We are stronger together! We will plan a subsequent Care to Chat event in August. Watch our website and this newsletter for more information as to date and time.

### **Congratulations to Pastor Lyle McKenzie, Lutheran Church of the Cross.**

Pastor Lyle McKenzie who serves as pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross - across the parking lot from us - is being honoured today with an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Victoria. This well-deserved recognition marks years of work in building strong collaboration and engagement in multi-faith endeavours at the university, his instrumental work in the development of the Shelbourne Community Kitchen (also now located just across the parking lot from Luther Court!) his partnership with Luther Court in our proposal to build intergenerational affordable housing and many other accomplishments. Congratulations Lyle. We are so proud of you – and grateful for your partnership in the areas where our life on this corner of Cedar Hill & Cedar Hill Cross Rd. intersect.

### **Air-cooling at Luther Court**

In response to the heat dome that was experienced last summer, and we are told may be a regular occurrence in the years to come, Luther Court has been working to address this issue to ensure our community is safe and well-cared for in these times of extreme heat. We received a substantial grant from the federal government and are working to install air cooling in every room in long term care (currently there is air cooling in the common areas of long term care and in our main floor lounge.) With supply-chain issues this work will unfortunately not be completed before the summer this year, but we will have it in place by the end of the year, which helps our long range plans in this matter. In addition, we have purchased stand-alone air conditioners for every apartment at Luther Court, which have now been put into place, to ensure that all who live in our apartments have the ability to live in a temperature-controlled environment. Plans are also in place to provide air-cooling in our main floor dining room (the kitchen area has already been outfitted with air-cooling). We are indeed grateful to the federal government and to our Board of Directors who have approved a supplement to that grant to ensure the ongoing safety and comfort of those who make their home at Luther Court.

### **Accreditation**

From September 6-8 of this year we will once again undergo an Accreditation survey by Accreditation Canada. As you are aware, we have been the recipient of Exemplary Standing awards by Accreditation Canada, as well as several Leading Practices. We support the work of Accreditation to ensure excellence in our work and to align ourselves with national standards to help us to achieve these goals. We have embedded the Accreditation standards into our working structure as a means to integrate the standards fully into our everyday life and work together. You will hear more about this process as we near our survey date. Check our website for more information.

As we move toward the summer months, we wish all of you times of rest and relaxation. We look forward to your visits to our community and encourage your feedback as to how we can remain a responsive and welcoming community to all.

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