January 14, 2021

Dear loved ones of residents at Minoru Residence,

Later today, the Ministry of Health will share their weekly update of the number of cases at long-term care homes. The report, which can be found on the BC Centre for Disease Control’s (BCCDC) website, will include data from Wednesday, January 6 to January 13, 2021. The numbers that will be reported today are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative cases</th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
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We know this news may be difficult for our families and staff members, especially those with loved ones currently with COVID-19 and those who’ve lost someone due to the illness. For families with outstanding questions, requiring emotional support, or needing assistance navigating the healthcare system, please contact the PHC/VCH LTC Family Support Line at 1-844-824-2219 or 604-875-4953. Please note that the PHC/VCH LTC Family Support Line cannot provide specific resident status reports.

This week, we continue to implement all of our infection control and prevention measures to reduce transmission of COVID-19 at Minoru. We have also implemented a number of other measures to better support our staff and residents during this outbreak:

- Physicians will now be on-site daily to support our nursing staff as well as our residents.
- Continue to bring in additional staff including Care Aides and Nursing staff to support and care for our residents.
- Rapid COVID-19 testing is now taking place for staff at Minoru Residence as they enter the home. This will help us detect staff who may be incubating the virus without any symptoms.
- Continued support and on-site presence from VCH leadership, regional Infection Control and Prevention physicians and experts, as well as members from our regional Quality and Patient Safety team.

**Next Virtual Family Town Hall**

We are committed to sharing the latest information with all our families about the current outbreak at Minoru. Our next Virtual Town Hall will take place on **Monday, January 18 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.** If you have any questions, feel free to send them in advance to MinoruFamilies@vch.ca. At this session, one of our Recreation Therapists will provide an update on how their team is supporting your loved ones during the outbreak.

Sincerely, Jo-Anne Kirk, Manager, Minoru Residence

**Frequently asked questions**

**Are residents being retested and how often?**

As part of our outbreak measures, all residents at Minoru Residence have been tested for COVID-19. Any
residents that develop COVID-19 symptoms, even mild symptoms, will be retested. Our care staff are also experienced in assessing residents who are non-verbal. All residents are assessed twice daily for symptoms and note any changes in their usual behaviour. The Medical Health Officer may also order additional testing.

Can you explain why you are delaying the second dose of the vaccine? Where is the proof that this will still be effective?

Last week, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, explained the decision to extend the interval between doses for people in B.C. From looking at data, modelling from BC Centre for Disease Control, and using the COVID-19 Ethical Decision-Making Framework, it has been determined that administering the first doses of vaccine to as many people as possible in the priority groups in the early weeks of the campaign, when doses are limited, will protect the greatest number of at-risk people overall in the shortest possible time, and will have the greatest impact on reducing mortality, severe disease and hospitalizations. Based on this direction, we will be planning to provide the second dose of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines at approximately 35 days after the first dose. Public Health is tracking who has received vaccine, which vaccine was administered, and when people will be invited to receive their second dose.

Will the outbreak affect the second round of vaccines being administered?

No, active outbreaks will not affect immunization clinics in long-term care sites. Eligible residents, staff and essential visitors will receive a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine. However, residents that have developed COVID-19 will not be revaccinated at this time as we believe they are protected by natural immunity. As further vaccine becomes available, they may get vaccinated at a later date.

Can you please provide more details about your infection control measures?

Our staff all follow strict infection control and prevention guidelines. When supporting residents, they don a new set of PPE and all equipment and surfaces are cleaned and sanitized often through our enhanced cleaning protocols. We have also implemented a number of single use items—such as blood pressure cuffs, plates and cutlery—to reduce the risk of transmission when using these items. In addition, all laundry is washed in industrial washing machines and meet all infection control and quality standards to ensure that personal clothing and linen are washed thoroughly. Last week, we also received a special UV light disinfection device to help us further disinfect rooms, surfaces and equipment.

Has the ventilation system been assessed regarding role in transmission? Are windows open to let fresh air in for the residents?

The ventilation system at Minoru is in good operating condition and is not contributing to COVID-19 transmission at the facility. The entire building HVAC system and ducts were cleaned last year by a commercial contractor and we maintain regular maintenance to ensure it is inspected and or replaced if needed. This also includes ensuring the system is bringing fresh air into the building.

Currently, due to the cold and rainy weather, we have not been opening windows within the home. Leaving the windows open also tends to put strain on the boilers and the HVAC system as they work harder to regulate the temperature in the building. It can also allow unwanted visitors—such as rodents—to find a way into the building. Scientific evidence shows us that the most common transmission of COVID-19 is from person to person.