December 22, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Staff:

We are writing to notify you that a COVID-19 outbreak has been declared at Minoru Residence on 1 East. A resident has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Public Health is working closely with Minoru Residence to investigate the situation and determine if any other staff and residents have been affected in order to prevent further infections.

Control measures have been put in place at Minoru Residence. This may result in some residents being asked to remain in their rooms, including during mealtimes. You may also notice restrictions to group activities and non-essential services. These precautions prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, and are standard approaches already used in care homes during seasonal influenza outbreaks. This will mean that social visits to Minoru Residence on 1 East will not be possible until the outbreak is declared over; the exception is compassionate visits at the end of life. Further measures for infection control may be directed by Vancouver Coastal Health.

All staff will continue to wear appropriate personal protective equipment, as before, in order to protect both residents and staff at all times. We will be closely monitoring residents and staff for symptoms. Residents and staff who develop any symptoms, however mild, will receive the testing and care they need.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness. It can spread through droplets when a person coughs or sneezes, or touching the virus with your hands and then touching your face before washing your hands. Symptoms of COVID-19 range from mild to severe. These symptoms may include fever, cough, fatigue, runny nose, sore throat, temporary loss of taste and/or smell; and sometimes nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. More severe symptoms can include difficulty breathing or chest pain. While most people experience mild illness, older adults and people with pre-existing medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness.

For further information on COVID-19 visit the Vancouver Coastal Health information page http://www.vch.ca/covid-19 or call HealthLink BC by dialing 8-1-1.

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. For information regarding the status of a resident at Minoru Residence, please contact: Jo-Anne Kirk, manager at 604-828-2803 or jo-anne.kirk@vch.ca.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Lysyshyn
Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority