



March 12, 2020

Dear Tabor Village Community Members,

### Introduction

I wanted to reach out to you as Tabor Village implements an infection control plan in response to the worldwide COVID-19 novel coronavirus pandemic. As the people around the globe face this frightening challenge, Tabor Village wants to assure you that we are doing everything we can do to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

Tabor Village is blessed with employees who not only do their jobs with excellence every day but go above and beyond. We appreciate the understanding of the Tabor Village community during these difficult and uncertain times as the pandemic situation evolves. The leadership team is confident that employees will take all necessary precautions.

Communication will be enhanced to the Tabor Village community during the duration of the pandemic including more information available on the Tabor Village website, social media such as Facebook as well as email distribution and other communication media.

The information that follows provides an update on the measures Tabor Village is taking to best protect residents, tenants and staff against COVID-19. Elderly individuals and people with medical conditions are most vulnerable to severe complications from COVID-19. Therefore, Tabor Village is following the guidance from Fraser Health public health officials to ensure the reduction of the risk of introduction of COVID-19, and Tabor Village is ready to identify cases promptly for early management.

An outbreak of COVID-19 within Tabor Village would likely have serious consequences for older adults. Many of the same principles of influenza outbreak management are being applied to managing risks associated with COVID-19. Tabor Village is implementing an updated infection control plan to enhance protection from the virus at this time:

### Visitors

- Reduced visiting hours and enhanced screening measures are being introduced.
- Ill visitors, including any degree of respiratory symptoms, are not permitted to visit.
- If there is urgency to a visit a senior, such as due to rapidly declining health status of a resident, and sick visitors must be present, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be arranged in advance to protect the health of others at Tabor Village.

### Social Distancing

- Larger group activities may be cancelled or revised depending on the spread of COVID-19 in Abbotsford and Fraser Valley.

### Isolation and outbreak protocols

- Nurses are being re-educated on recognizing respiratory outbreak symptoms, testing procedures and outbreak control measures to keep older adults and staff safe.
- In the event of an individual displaying new or worsening respiratory symptoms the presumed COVID-19 case, the individual will be immediately isolated and Public Health officials will be notified for advice on the next steps.
- If an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19, Tabor Village will follow up immediately with Public Health to seek assistance in management and contact tracing. No seniors will be transferred to acute care with a diagnosis of COVID-19 unless their clinical status requires it.

### Testing

- The testing by way of a swab will be conducted on any senior exhibiting new or worsening upper or lower respiratory symptoms, even if there is just a single individual who is ill. In the vast majority of cases so far in Canada, COVID-19 has lower respiratory presentations (i.e. symptoms similar to pneumonia), but as with influenza, it is recommended to test older adults with symptoms which may be milder or atypical.
- The same throat and nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs used for influenza are used to test for COVID19. An NP swab is the most sensitive swab for testing, and is the preferred swab.

### Infection control

- Tabor Village is reviewing and re-training staff on infection control procedures, including hand hygiene and donning and doffing personal protective equipment. Maintaining appropriate infection control practices is critical to limiting the spread of COVID-19 at Tabor Village.
- Current evidence strongly suggests COVID-19 is spread by droplets and direct contact. In the event of a presumed or confirmed case Tabor Village will follow provincial infection control guidelines from the BCCDC, including the appropriate personal protective equipment when caring for a person with COVID-19 or a person under investigation for COVID-19.
- Tabor Village will also be following the recommended continuous guidance to older adults on respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette.
- As current evidence does not suggest that COVID-19 has airborne spread, N95 masks are not anticipated to be routinely required unless a patient is undergoing aerosol generating medical procedures.

### Staffing measures

- Staff should not be working with a new or worse cough. If staff are symptomatic after returning from an affected area, they will be tested before returning to work. Affected areas are changing frequently; guidance is available from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Public Health Agency of Canada (see links at bottom).
- Asymptomatic staff returning from specific high-risk areas should have already received instructions at the Canadian border on self-isolation for 2 weeks. No other asymptomatic returning travelers are currently asked to self-isolate, and this includes health care workers and/or facility staff. However, asymptomatic returning travelers are asked to self-monitor for symptoms, stay home if symptoms develop, and call 811.
- If COVID-19 outbreaks occur in other senior's residences, any staff who work in the affected residences will be asked not to come to Tabor Village until the outbreak at their other workplace has ended.

- Tabor Village is testing its contingency plan to ensure business continuity should many staff members require isolation and be unable to attend work.
- We appreciate the hard work of every employee who comes to work, or stays home when not feeling well, for the wellbeing of older adults and staff. You are our heroes!

### Cleaning

- Tabor Village implemented increased cleaning measures during the winter months and continues cleaning of high touch areas to try to prevent transmission of viruses. In March, began enhanced cleaning using hospital-grade disinfectants of high touch surfaces, at least 2 times per day in line with typical practices during an outbreak of respiratory illness (examples include door knobs, faucets, etc.). Tabor Village is following the “Fraser Health Viral Respiratory Illness Protocol and Toolkit” for guidance.

### Supplies

- Tabor Village is working with existing suppliers to identify supply needs for the coming months and developing a plan to ensure the adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and other relevant items.
- Adequate supplies of everything needed to meet the needs of older adults will be maintained and to ensure staff safety in an outbreak situation. Additional supplies will be obtained as needed.
- Tabor Village maintains a supply of emergency food and water supplies.

The basis for an effective infection control plan is to keep individuals out of Tabor Village who may have COVID-19 and to ensure that employees are doing everything possible to protect the older adults who call Tabor Home. Please note that Tabor will be updating the infection control plan as the situation within Abbotsford and within Tabor Village changes.

### **Further information can be found in the following resources:**

- Fraser Health Medical Health Officer Updates: [www.fraserhealth.ca/employees/medical-health-officerupdates](http://www.fraserhealth.ca/employees/medical-health-officerupdates)
- Fraser Health website: [www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus#.Xmg2LPIKg2w](http://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus#.Xmg2LPIKg2w)
- BC Centre for Disease Control: [www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/novel-coronavirus-\(covid-19\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/novel-coronavirus-(covid-19))
- Definition of affected area: [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirusinfection/health-professionals/covid-19-affected-areas-list.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirusinfection/health-professionals/covid-19-affected-areas-list.html)
- Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novelcoronavirus-infection.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novelcoronavirus-infection.html)

Thank you for your continued support of Tabor Village – a vibrant community where seniors experience care from the heart with Christian compassion and respect.

Yours sincerely,

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