

BC Housing is coordinating with the Ministry of Health and our many partners as we continue to monitor the current situation with COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We recognize that some of the people we serve have higher rates of health concerns and may be at greater risk if exposed to the virus. BC Housing has prepared this fact sheet to assist our directly-managed employees and our partners to prepare, prevent and act in responding to COVID-19.

## **PREPARE - KNOW THE FACTS**

The [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) (BCCDC) website is a good resource for information on the symptoms of COVID-19 and how the virus is spread.

*Additional resources:*

- [BC Housing COVID-19](#) – Check out our COVID-19 information page to stay up to date.
- [STOP 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) poster](#) - Provides visual directions for what to do.
- [Information for Patients with Chronic Health Conditions](#) - BC Centre for Disease Control has developed a Q&A for vulnerable people with chronic health conditions.

## **PREVENT – STOP THE SPREAD**

The following recommendations are designed to help reduce the possible spread of the virus and take the steps necessary to protect the people we serve:

### ***If You're Sick, Stay Home***

- Encourage employees and tenants to stay home if they are sick.
- If they have symptoms like coughing, shortness of breath, fever or sore throat, encourage them to call their primary care provider, local public health office or call 8-1-1 (HealthLinkBC).
- Post signs at entrances instructing visitors not to visit if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Post information in common areas, such as: [proper hand washing](#), [cough etiquette](#) and [STOP 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) poster](#).

### ***Enhanced Cleaning Protocols***

- Prioritize enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of common areas where people gather and high touchpoints (i.e., elevators, common amenity spaces, door handles, countertops, and bathroom surfaces) a minimum of three or more times a day.
- Cleaning floors, walls, and windows should be secondary at this time.

### ***Cancel Unnecessary Gatherings***

BC Housing has implemented the following meeting restrictions:

- Gatherings that are critical in nature and where safe social distance is possible (under 10 people in a large, well-ventilated space) can proceed as planned.
- For all other gatherings (meetings, site tours, presentations, etc.) employees should conduct these remotely via video or teleconference, or postpone

### ***Travel Alert***

- The provincial government is recommending against all non-essential travel out of Canada, including United States ([see Information for Travellers](#)). Anyone who chooses to travel outside of Canada will be asked to stay away from work or school for 14 days upon their return.

## ACT – SUPPORT PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE COVID-19

If someone has been exposed to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and is displaying symptoms (fever, a new cough or difficulty breathing), please encourage them to:

- Contact their primary care provider, local public health office or call 8-1-1 (HealthLinkBC)
- [Self-isolate and avoid contact with others](#)
- Wear a mask to prevent transmission to other people

***For BC Housing employees, please advise your Property Portfolio Manager of the situation.***

***For housing and service providers, please coordinate with your local public health authority AND notify your BC Housing representative.***

## ENHANCED CLEANING PROTOCOLS

To minimize the risk of spreading the virus, we recommend prioritizing an enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of common areas where people gather and high touchpoints (i.e., elevators, common amenity spaces, door handles, countertops, and bathroom surfaces) a minimum of three or more times a day. Cleaning floors, walls, and windows should be secondary at this time.

- To properly disinfect the common areas, follow the product directions. For most products, the proper procedure is to first clean the area with soap and water, then apply the disinfectant and let it sit in place for about 10 minutes before wiping it with a clean cloth. This is in addition to regular cleaning, which must continue to take place.
- For disinfection, any of the following should be effective:
  - Most common EPA – registered household disinfectants
  - Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol
  - Diluted household bleach solution

More information on disinfectant products effective against COVID-19 is available on page 9 of the [2019 Novel Coronavirus: BC Public Health Guidelines for Schools and Child Care Programs](#).

*Helpful tips:*

- Follow any manufacturing instructions for the application and proper ventilation.
- Remember to check the product is not past its expiry date.
- Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
- Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out the [BC Government Public Health Alerts](#) web page to access the latest updates on COVID-19.

Provincial / Federal	Local Health Authorities	BC Housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">BC Centre for Disease Control</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">HealthLink BC</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Public Health Agency of Canada</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Vancouver Coastal Health</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Fraser Health</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Interior Health</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Island Health</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Northern Health</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact your local BC Housing representative</li> <li>• <a href="#">BC Housing COVID-19</a></li> <li>• General inquires can be directed to <a href="mailto:communityrelations@bchousing.org">communityrelations@bchousing.org</a></li> </ul>