

Q & A from April 3, 2020 WTHSP Webinar  
with Minister Robinson and Parliamentary Secretary Mitzi Dean

**Q: How likely is it someone from a communal setting facility (ie. Transition Houses) will receive a test when a person is presenting with symptoms of the virus?**

The BC Centre for Disease Control has updated their [COVID-19 testing guidelines](#) to expand the definition of vulnerable populations. People who develop a new fever or respiratory symptoms or shortness of breath should be tested if they are:

- Healthcare workers
- Residents of remote, isolated or Indigenous communities
- People living in communal settings such as work-camps, correctional facilities, shelters, group homes, assisted living and seniors' residences (this includes transition home residents)
- People who are homeless or have unstable housing
- Essential service providers (e.g. first responders) (this includes transition home staff)
- Returning travellers identified at a point of entry to Canada.

**Q: If a woman in the transition house becomes symptomatic, should we allow her to remain in the house? Should our staff be expected to take on this level of care?**

If you are able to arrange and support an isolation space within the house, then a symptomatic person could remain in place. If you are not able to arrange this, BC Housing will assist in arranging an isolation space in a hotel or motel.

The approach to interacting with residents should follow the advice of the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Health. We all need to follow Public Health orders and directions from local health authorities; it is our collective effort as a community to try to prevent the spread of the virus and mitigate the demand on our healthcare system.

**Q: Is there an outline of specific PPE we should have on site?**

Please refer to guidelines outlined by your local health authority, as well as the BC Centre for Disease Control's [Interim Guidance to Social Service Providers for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19](#), which includes information about PPE.

**Q: If we have already been having to pay for hotels for women and women with children, is there a way that we can be reimbursed for that?**

Please fill out the cost reimbursement form and indicate the additional cost pressures you are experiencing. You can reach out to Sairoz Sekhon or Ali Ayala-Davidson to discuss further as needed.

**Q: For arranging a hotel stay it says to contact your BCH or AHMA representative. What do we do during evenings and weekends when we need to make arrangements?**

If BC Housing hasn't yet secured a hotel/motel in your community and you need to make arrangements at a local hotel or motel during evenings and on weekends, please go ahead and do so. Connect back with Sairoz Sekhon or Ali Ayala-Davidson afterwards to discuss ongoing plans and reimbursement.

**Q: When there is only space out in Chilliwack for example and we're in the Lower Mainland, is it possible to get a hotel for them so they are closer to other supports and transit accessibility in Vancouver?**

BC Housing is securing a number of motel and hotel spaces in the Lower Mainland – there will be numerous additional spaces available.

**Q: We are experiencing challenges with grocery shopping. With rationing of items like milk my staff are having to go store to store to get enough, exposing themselves unnecessarily.**

BC Housing is working on solutions to address this and will provide updates as soon as possible.

**Q: Donations are dropping from household drops in income, and federal promises are causing huge financial pressures for agencies reliant on donations.**

Please reach out to Sairoz Sekhon or Ali Ayala-Davidson to discuss cost pressures.

**Q: We are experiencing abusers having their lawyers insisting that children go to visits; are there extra supports to assist these women with a legal response?**

Please refer to the following resources:

The Province has provided guidance on [legal questions](#) regarding parenting arrangements under COVID-19.

Rise Women's Legal Centre has also provided [Guidelines for Parenting During COVID-19](#).