

North Okanagan Hospice Society's Response to COVID-19

Update: April 7, 2020

North Okanagan Hospice Society staff have been working diligently to keep Hospice House as a safe environment for our residents and staff. Safety precautions mandated by Interior Health Authority and the Provincial Medical Officer are changing/increasing daily. These precautions include but are not limited to:

- Staff, including support and administration staff, are required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The degree of PPE is depending on their role in Hospice House.
- Staff and visitors are required to have their temperature taken and recorded upon entering Hospice House. In addition, staff and visitors are screened for other COVID-19 symptoms as required and as recommended by the Provincial Medical Officer.
- We are maintaining the limit one designated visitor per resident policy as per the order of the Provincial Medical Officer. We recognize that this causes concern for families, but this distancing is successfully keeping Hospice House a safe environment in which to work and reside. We are working closely with our residents and designated visitors to maintain strong social connections for our residents through use of phone and FaceTime on i-pads.

North Okanagan Hospice Society management and staff thank the residents of the North Okanagan for their support. The colourful hearts for Hospice House windows, the funny painted rocks in the garden, the encouraging Facebook messages, and the banging pots at 7:00 pm each evening are so appreciated! With your unwavering support, we will continue our work to provide quality end of life care.

For other sources of information on COVID-19, you can visit:

Interior Health Authority: <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/covid-19/>

BC Centre for Disease Control: <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/informationon-novel-coronavirus>

BC Ministry of Health: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

Public Health Agency of Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/publichealth/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>