Continuing Care Sector Calls NSHA Update
June 16, 2020

Janice Pettipas, Provincial Public Health Laboratory Network, Program Coordinator:

- Janice provided a clarification around sharing lab results: The Authorized Prescriber can obtain the results of a swab. The **only** exceptions to this are Public Health staff who work with home care or an Occupational Health Nurse involved in the submission of **staff swabs**.
- There is no change in the process of ordering swabs. Central Zone – order direct from Central Zone QEII Microbiology laboratory using the Viral Transport Swab Order form currently posted to the COVID-19 Hub. Home Care and LTC facilities in Eastern/Northern/Western Zones –are to continue to go through their local hospital to secure supplies.
- We posted an updated Pathology and Laboratory Medicine - Continuing Care/First Nations - FAQ re In-Home COVID-19 Swab Collection June 4, 2020 on the COVID-19 Hub.

Susan Stevens, NSHA Continuing Care, Senior Director:

On the Long-term Care (LTC) side:

- June 15, 202 we issued information about the continued closure of respite beds in nursing homes. The closure is now extended to September 30, 2020.
- June 10, 2020 we forwarded a copy of the letter sent to clients on the LTC wait list indicating that due to the pandemic they will see longer wait times.
- June 7, 2020 we forwarded information related to changes to accessing palliative care physicians indicating that as of the end of May we were returning to normal processes that were in place prior to COVID-19.
- June 2, 2020 we posted the Long-term Care Infection Prevention & Control FAQs to the COVID-19 Hub.
- We continue to do service resumption planning for services delivered by Care Coordination, Occupational Therapists/Physiotherapists in Central Zone as well as our Home Care Nursing and Behavioural Health teams.
- We continue to work with DHW, acute care colleagues and our colleagues within home care and LTC to implement the revisions to the LTC and home care admission protocols.
- We continue to work with DHW on the response to outbreaks as we prepare for the potential second wave.

On the Home Care (HC) side:

- The Home Care IPAC working group is continuing its work. On June 2, 2020 they posted the FAQs, Guide for Using PPE, and a PPE Differences Fact Sheet on the Continuing Care page of the COVID-19 HUB. They are also working on another set of FAQs that is currently undergoing final approval.
- Continuing Care has been working with NSHA Public Health on finalizing a process that will support the notification of COVID-19 results to Home Care providers and equipment providers. We are currently finalizing the memo to outline the process.

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