

# Personalized Compassionate Home Care Services

# SC Home Healthcare Network Inc.

P.O. Box 1809, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0

(604) 740-1993 • info@homehealthcarenetwork.ca

www.homehealthcarenetwork.ca

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## **COVID19 Safety Plan**

As the vaccination clinics roll out and more people are getting their immunization, we are still needing to take precautions to keep ourselves & each other safe.

Until most of the population is fully vaccinated, the challenge for all British Columbians is still to modify our behaviours and to keep using protective measures to allow for greater interactions without putting the health of our loved ones, friends, clients, coworkers, and neighbours at risk.

Coronavirus is transmitted via larger liquid droplets when a person coughs or sneezes but also potentially when they are talking in very close proximity to another person. The virus in these droplets then can enter the body of another person when that person breathes in the droplets or when the droplets touch the eyes, nose or throat of that person.

In addition, droplet transmission is much more likely when in close contact in an indoor setting. COVID-19 can also be transmitted through droplets in the environment if someone touches the contaminated area then touches their face or eyes without cleaning their hands. This speaks to the importance of regularly cleaning one's hands and also cleaning of high touch areas in the environment.

## Please review the following safety measures we still need to adhere to;

#### **Enhanced Cleaning and Sanitation:**

- We ask that all caregivers and cleaning staff pay special attention to areas often touched such as, but not limited to computers, door handles, locks, light switches, countertops, faucets, desks tables, keyboards, toilets, surfaces, telephones, television remote controls and appliances handles. These should be cleaned on each shift.
- Cleaning: To disinfect a surface effectively, you must clean it first to remove surface dirt and debris. Any
  residue left on work surfaces and equipment may deactivate the disinfectant. Use soap, detergent, or cleaning
  wipes as a cleaning agent.
- Disinfection: After cleaning, apply a disinfectant to the surface. You need to leave the disinfectant on for a specified contact time to neutralize any remaining organisms. Look for recommended contact times on product instructions.

# Personal Protective Equipment & Safe Behaviors:

- All staff should thoroughly wash their hands with soap as often as possible, especially when arriving and leaving a client's home, and use hand sanitizer in their car before and after visiting each client.
- We ask everyone to cough or sneeze in their elbow even when wearing a mask, and never in their hands.
   Never take off your mask to cough or sneeze.

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# Personal Protective Equipment & Safe Behaviors, Cont.:

- We still encourage everyone to refrain from giving handshakes and/or hugs outside of family members
- Avoid touching your face and practice good hygiene
- We encourage all members of our team to maintain a healthy lifestyle (proper diet, sleep, and exercise) to help keep their immune system strong.
- We strongly encourage all staff members to get fully vaccinated
- Keep physical distancing, as much as possible when in the community and where not possible, consider using a non-medical mask or face covering
- Only get together in small groups of around 2 to 6 people and keep a physical distance
- All staff is required to always wear a medical mask when caring for a client, as well as gloves. Face shields are
  optional, but they do not replace wearing a mask.
- Medical masks are to be worn only once and be changed between clients. Cloth masks are to be washed after each shift and ironed out before being worn again.

## **Physical Distancing Measures:**

- Staff members will be encouraged to arrive only 1-2 minutes before their scheduled shift time.
- When possible, we ask staff to please use the washroom at their home prior to coming to work.
- We encourage our caregivers to bring their own water bottles to avoid using our clients' dishes/cups.
- When our clients do not need hands on support at any time while a caregiver is in the home, we ask that they
  please keep a 6ft/2-meter distance as much as possible.
- Staff members are asked to keep their personal things (food, water, etc.) in their vehicle if there is no
  designated "staff area" in the client's home.

## **COVID-19 Symptom Screening:**

If you or an immediate family member should feel unwell or have cold or flu symptoms, including but not limited to; coughing, fever, chills, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headache, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat and/or fatigue:

- We ask that you stay home, phone 811, and see a doctor if they develop a fever, a cough, difficulty breathing or pneumonia.
- You should immediately report any symptoms to our office and remain off work until you have been cleared to work by a physician.
- Call 911 if you have severe difficulty breathing or chest pain.
- If you develop symptoms while at work, you are required to go home right away, and immediately inform our office of your symptoms.

The safety and well-being of both our staff and our clients is of utmost importance to us at Home Healthcare Network, so please know we are doing everything we can to keep you safe.

Caroline Gagne, Owner