

LICENSING CONNECT

Community Care Facilities Licensing | Residential Care

April 2023



Message from the Regional Manager



Greetings and Happy Spring to you!

This time of year is exciting, bringing renewed energy and a refreshed outlook for the months to come. Our days are slowly getting a little bit longer and bringing (hopefully) longer days of sun and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors on this beautiful island we all call home.

With spring renewal, comes spring cleaning and reorganizing and Licensing has done just that! I'd like to introduce you to our redesigned Licensing Newsletter named "Licensing Connect".

The team has worked to continue to bring you updated information and alerts, and we've expanded our FAQ's as well added new activities and information on upcoming events. We hope you enjoy the redesigned look and find the information useful as we build stronger connections.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for information you'd like to see in the newsletter, please email us at CCFLCommunications@islandhealth.ca

Thank you for taking the time to read Licensing Connect.

Best wishes for a bright and lovely spring!

Michelle Dennis

BSW, MA Ed. | Regional Manager

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INFORMATION SESSIONS | 2023

Community Care Facilities Licensing offers free information sessions for individuals who are interested to learn about how to start up a residential care facility or become a manager of a residential care facility on Vancouver Island.

NEW & PENDING MANAGERS

TO REGISTER

Information sessions will be presented by a Residential Care Licensing Officer to a minimum of five participants.

For more information or to register for an information session, please call the Community Care Facilities Licensing Program at 250-739-5800 and identify the information session date that you are interested in attending.

March 23 VIRTUAL	May 25 VIRTUAL	June 10 Saturday IN PERSON
July 27 VIRTUAL	September 28 VIRTUAL	October 14 Saturday IN PERSON
November 23 VIRTUAL	Thursdays 9:30am-12:00pm	

Provincial Health Order Update

Rescinded April 6, 2023

On April 6, 2023, it was announced by Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry that the annual respiratory illness season had ended. With this announcement, came changes to Mask Use and Visitation in Long Term Care Facilities. Moving forward, the following Provincial Health Orders have been removed:

- Routine masking guidelines will be identified through point-of-care risk assessments only which ends ongoing mask wearing for visitors and staff for COVID-19.
- COVID-19 screening of visitors is no longer required, which ends the need for visitors to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

- Rapid-testing or proof of a negative rapid test result is no longer required.
- There are no longer any restrictions related to visitors attending activities or events.

The Provincial Health Order which requires all staff to receive a primary series of COVID-19 vaccination remains in place.

Facility staff should continue to encourage visitors to hand wash/sanitize, wear mask if they wish and not to visit if feeling unwell. Masks are to be provided by the entrance for visitors who wish to wear a mask.

For more information, please visit: Province-wide restrictions - Province of British Columbia ([gov.bc.ca](https://www2.gov.bc.ca))



Communicable Disease Prevention Plans

Over the past few years the COVID-19 Pandemic has created challenges for Residential Care facilities; specifically when it comes to illness with persons in care and staff.

In response to the pandemic, Licensees were required to develop a COVID-19 safety plan to align with Worksafe BC and the Provincial Health Officer's Orders to ensure a healthy and safe environment for everyone.

Licensing Officers used a COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention Audit Tool for Long-term Care and a Health and Safety Inspection Checklist to ensure compliance was achieved within multiple areas of the facility.

April 8, 2022, employers were no longer required to maintain a COVID-19 Safety Plan and were to transition to a communicable disease prevention plan.

As we begin to move towards an endemic, Licensees are required to shift from a COVID-19 Safety Plan to a Communicable Disease Prevention Plan.

Your Licensing Officer may have a discussion with you about your Communicable Disease Prevention Plan when they come to conduct Routine Inspections.

Worksafe BC also has some resources to help develop your Communicable Disease Prevention Plan located at this link:
<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/covid-19>.

Please remember to ensure all persons in care and staff are aware of any new policies/plans developed.

We look forward to connecting with you in the field and supporting you.

By Ashley Minifie | Child Care Licensing Officer



CROSSWORD

PUZZLE PLAY

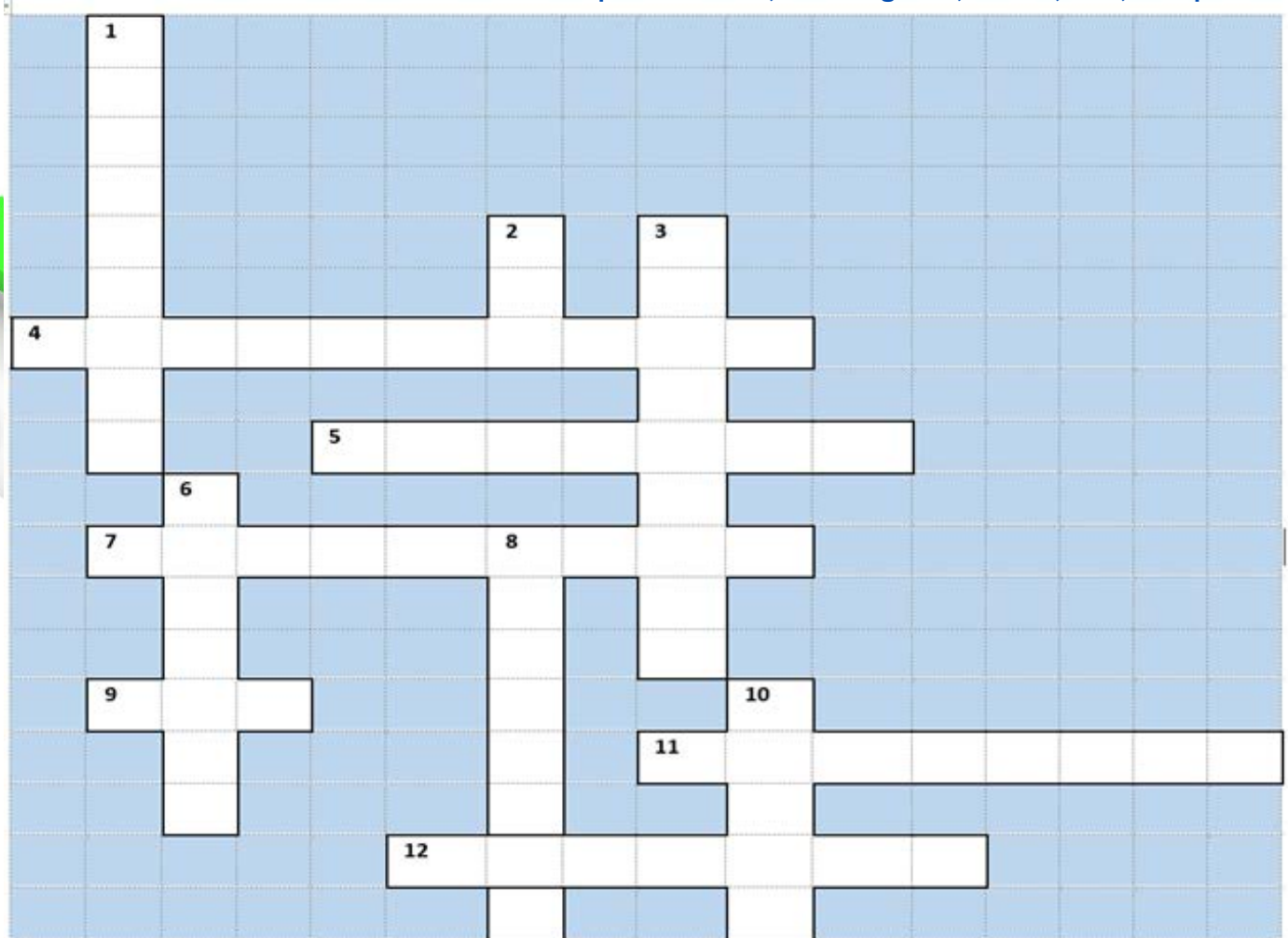
Down

1. If a person in care is at risk for leaving the community care facility without notification, they must have this sort of plan.
2. Community Care and Assisted Living _____ (legislation)
3. A type of abuse defined as: "any act, or lack of action, which may diminish the sense of dignity of a person in care, perpetrated by a person not in care, such as verbal harassment, yelling, or confinement."
6. A type of inspection performed by a Licensing Officer where the frequency is determined by a risk assessment.
8. A person applying for a licence may not be younger than this age.
10. The temperature of this, which is accessible to persons in care, must not be heated to more than 49 degrees Celsius.

Across

4. Residential Care _____ (legislation)
5. An event that required first aid, emergency care by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner, and/or transfer to hospital.
7. A reportable incident regarding the ingestion of a toxic substance by a person in care (hint: this includes the administration of naloxone).
9. The number of days per week that the Licensing Program is open.
11. A person in care requires this if they are admitted to a community care facility for a period of more than 30 days.
12. The failure of a care provider to meet the needs of a person in care, including food, shelter, care, or supervision.

By Jessa Broeren
Residential Care Licensing officer





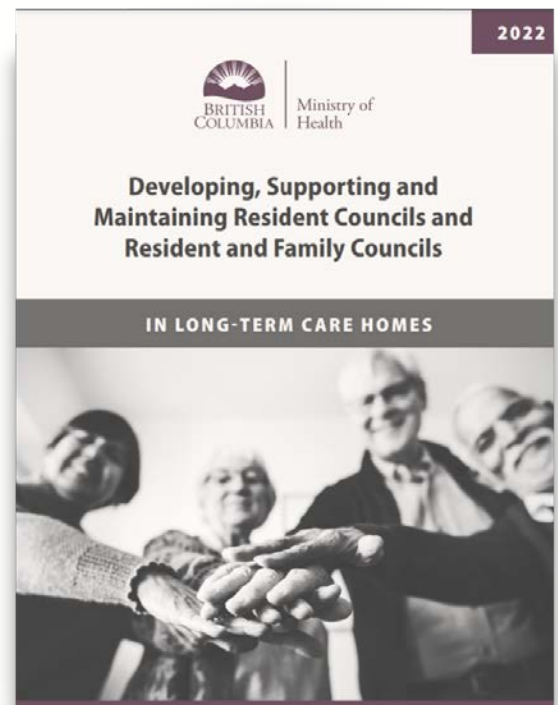
A Look Inside Licensing

Resident and Family Councils in Long Term Care

Amendment to the Residential Care Regulation
Order in Council OIC 494 | September 27, 2022

On September 3, 2022, Section 59 of Residential Care Regulation (RCR) was amended adding the additional sections of 59.1 and 59.2 regarding the requirements of the Licensee in relation to Resident and Family Councils specific to Long Term Care facilities. “Long-term care residences are people’s homes and it’s important that residents and family members have a place to share concerns and ideas when it comes to decisions about how the homes are operating” (A. Dix, Ministry of Health. (2002, November 3[DML1]). [Residents, family will have stronger voices in long-term care homes | News Release.](#)

With these changes, how do the amended sections of the (RCR) translate to a Licensing Routine Inspection?



[Click on image to download document](#)

Licensees and Managers should take the opportunity to review the amended sections of legislation and contact their Licensing Officer if they have any questions about the requirements outlined in sections 59, 59.1 and 59.2 of the Residential Care Regulation. Island Health’s, Licensing Routine Inspection Checklist has now been updated to include these amended sections and can be found at this [link](#). On the Routine Inspection Checklist under the Care & Supervision – Operation category, sections 59, 59.1 and 59.2 of the Residential Care Regulation have been added related to Resident and Family Councils. As Licensing conducts Routine Inspections, Licensing Officers will continue to provide education related to this expanded section of legislation to Licensees and Managers.



Does your facility have a Resident or Family Council as per section 59, 59.1 and 59.2 of the RCR?

- If not, the Licensee must at least twice each calendar year provide the opportunity for persons in care, families and contact persons to meet with one another and the Licensee.
- If yes, the Licensee must provide with no cost to the council, administrative support, access to a meeting room on the premise for up the three hours for each meeting and the opportunity to meet with one another and the Licensee at least twice each calendar year.

For Long Term Care facilities seeking guidance on standing up Resident and Family Councils, Marcy Johnsrude, Chair of Vancouver Island's Association of Family Councils (VIAFC) works in partnership with Island Health to support Licensees' of Long Term Care sites, and residents', families and representatives to create effective family councils. The goal is that every home will have a family led resident and family council.

Some highlights of Marcy Johnsrude's role include:

- Responds to individual inquires about family councils and other issues related to long term care in BC and provides referrals to appropriate organizations as necessary for assistance.

- Creates presentations and writes articles regarding issues related to long term care and provide a regional perspective regarding provincial and or national.
- Works with other Regional Associations of Family Councils and Independent Long Term Care Councils Association of BC to discuss current initiatives.

To learn more about Resident and Family Councils, please contact Marcy Johnsrude at VIAFC@shaw.ca or your Licensing Officer.

By **Janette Partaik**
Residential Care Licensing Officer

Resource Links



Residential Care Regulation - Long Term Care | Ministry of Health



Residential Care Licensing - Routine Inspection Checklist | Island Health



Developing, Supporting and Maintaining Resident Councils and Resident and Family Councils in Long Term Care | Ministry of Health

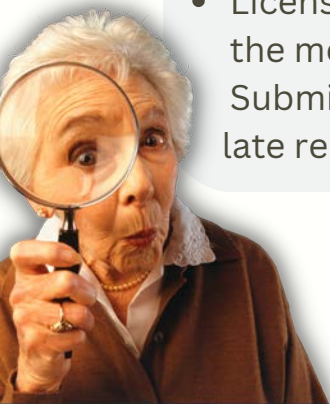
LICENSING LINGO

By Courtney Meridew | Residential Care Licensing Officer

FAQs

How do I report incidents to the Licensing Program on a weekend?

- Fax the incident report with the details, call and leave a voicemail, or email your Licensing Officer. A Licensing Officer will follow up once available.
- Licensing often educates facilities that if an Incident occurs on a Saturday in the morning, Licensees are still required to report on the weekend. Submitting a report on the following Monday may be considered late reporting as per Section 77(2)(c) of the Residential Care Regulation.



What can be done if a facility is unable to comply with a particular section of legislation? For example, bedroom sizes do not meet the legislative requirement?

- A Licensee may request an exemption to some areas of legislation.
- Reach out to your Licensing Officer who will provide further information and assistance with the exemption process.

How are Risk Assessments completed?

- Following a Routine Inspection the Licensing Program completes a Risk Assessment which reviews a facility's history over the past three years.
- Risk assessments include information from investigations, reportable incidents and inspections and monitoring.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- Parkinson Awareness Month
- World Health Day - April 7
- Good Friday April 7
- Easter Monday April 10

May

- Mental Health Week May 9-15
- World No Tobacco Day May 31

June

- World Environment Day - June 5
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- National Indigenous Day - June 21

CONTACT US



island health

COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES LICENSING

COURTENAY | 250.331.8620

CAMPBELL RIVER | 250.850.2110

NANAIMO | 250.739.5800

VICTORIA | 250.519.3401

CCFLCommunications@islandhealth.ca

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/community-care-facilities-licensing>

Resource Links

- [Ministry of Health - Overview of Visitors in Long-Term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living](#)
- [The BC Communicable Disease Control Manual](#)

