

Date:	October 28, 2020
To:	Foundations and Auxiliaries
CC:	Senior Leadership
From:	Kailey Miller, Regional Director, HR Pandemic Response
Re:	COVID-19 Updates: Safety, Volunteering, Gift Shops

Thank you for your effort in supporting actions and measures that reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and protect our patients, staff, and health care partners.

In July we sent an update advising critical operational functions that require attendance on-site could be discussed with the local Health Service Administrator (HSA) with consideration of a number of key principles to inform and guide decision-making specific to reintroducing staff on-site (safety, operational needs, and connection).

We felt it was timely to provide an update to confirm we are still limiting site access to activity that is essential in nature. This is in alignment with provincial directives to support the BC Ministry of Health requirements for preventing and controlling novel coronavirus, our [Exposure Control Plan](#) and our [Essential Visitors During COVID-19 Response Policy](#).

Volunteering:

- Steps are underway to prepare for the return of registered volunteers on-site, however, at this time will be limited to those working in accordance with the essential visitor policy.
- These steps will also assist us with exploring opportunities to welcome volunteers in a virtual capacity where possible.

Gift shops:

- As previously communicated, we still do not anticipate operations such as gift shops to be re-opened until the new year at the earliest.
- Additional review was completed to consider re-opening, however at this time this step creates challenges with the overall site safety plans by increasing risk level (noting continued restricted movement within the facility by both patients, healthcare workers, and visitors).
- This should be re-assessed in conjunction with the designated site safety leader when essential visitor guidelines and movement restrictions are updated.

We recognize the challenges this may place on your organization so please do reach out to your local HSA if you have questions or need support in making alternate plans.