



Date: May 13, 2020

Subject: Maintenance during COVID-19

PHCHF staff have been asked what maintenance can be done during the COVID-19 emergency. The Province of Ontario updated the list of essential services on April 4. According to that list, only essential maintenance can be done. Here is what the provincial order says:

20. Maintenance, repair and property management services strictly necessary to manage and maintain the safety, security, sanitation and essential operation of institutional, commercial, industrial and residential properties and buildings.

Here are some general guidelines.

- Any regular or routine maintenance should be restricted to vacant homes and common areas. This applies to both interior and exterior work.
- Maintenance and repair services to occupied homes should only be done in emergency situations.
- When maintenance is necessary, extra precautions need to be put in place to make sure members, staff and contractors are kept safe.
- If at all possible, carry out maintenance when members are not at home. If this is not possible, make sure that physical distancing measures are carried out. Keep at least 2 metres (6 feet) between people at all times.
- Staff should disinfect the work area before and after doing the work. Clean tools frequently.
- Everyone present in a unit (members, staff, contractors) should be encouraged to wear masks and, where practical, gloves. Make sure masks and gloves are disposed of safely. Wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer frequently.
- Screen everyone for possible symptoms of exposure to COVID-19 prior to entering a unit. This means asking questions to the member, any staff and any contractors. One option is to ask everyone to read and then sign a list of questions.

Here are some sample screening questions.

1. Do you have any of the following symptoms which are new or worsened if associated with allergies, chronic or pre-existing conditions: fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, and/or runny nose?
2. Have you returned to Canada from outside the country (including USA) in the past 14 days?

In the past 14 days, have you had close contact with...

3. Someone who has a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19?
4. A person who had acute respiratory illness that started within 14 days of their close contact to someone with a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19?
5. A person who had acute respiratory illness who returned from travel outside of Canada in the 14 days before they became sick?
Close contact includes providing care, living with or having close prolonged contact (within 2 meters) while the person was ill, or contact with infectious bodily fluids (for example, from a cough or sneeze) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

Thanks to our friends at CHF BC, CHFT and Don Area Co-operative Homes for sharing materials with us.

Our office is currently closed but we are continuing to work on your behalf and are available to answer questions. Staff can be reached at sophie@phchf.com. Please visit our website at www.phchf.com for more resources under the COVID-19 under the “Programs” tab.