



March 16, 2020

COVID - 19 Virus Pandemic

The safety of people living with ALS, their families and caregivers is our top priority during these uncertain times. In light of the situation caused by the COVID 19 virus emergency, the ALS Society of BC elects to err on the side of caution.

We have consulted with our equipment loan program service provider, HME Mobility and Accessibility who have initiated these safety protocols:

Their staff are instructed to follow these mandatory hygiene protocols:

- Wash hands regularly for at least 20 seconds;
- Throw used tissues or other materials containing body fluids directly into the garbage immediately;
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve rather than your hands and ensure any viral material from coughing or sneezing is not left on surfaces touched by others;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, the most common way the virus can infect you;
- Avoid personal interaction which risks sharing viral bodily fluids such as saliva, such as sharing cups or eating utensils;
- If you don't feel well – please stay home;
- Use the HME protective equipment that is available (N95 masks and gloves) available in each location when working with persons at risk or as directed;
- Ensure all returning equipment is promptly sanitized with our special equipment before being worked on, put into inventory or sent to another client.

Additional special procedures for certain tasks, e.g. deliveries, pick-ups, installing and adjusting equipment at client sites or with clients who may be at risk or potentially contagious, will also be implemented and will be outlined for front line employees involved in these tasks.

If you do not want equipment delivered to your home at this time, please contact Billie Doyle, Equipment Loan Program Manager at 1-800-708-3228 extension 223 or email equipmentloan@alsbc.ca .

All ALS Society of BC Living with ALS Support Groups are cancelled until further notice.

The Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Awards scheduled for April 7th, 2020 has been postponed until September 16, 2020.

All other events will be decided as we move forward. This will be communicated on the ALS Society of BC website www.alsbc.ca and the ALS Society of BC Face Book.

The ALS BC office remains open at this time with strict hygiene protocols in place. Office volunteers are requested to remain at home for now please.

If you have any questions regarding our operations, please do not hesitate to call Wendy Toyer, Executive Director

Phone: 1-800-708-3228 extension 222

Email: w.toyer@alsbc.ca

Cell: 778-999-6257