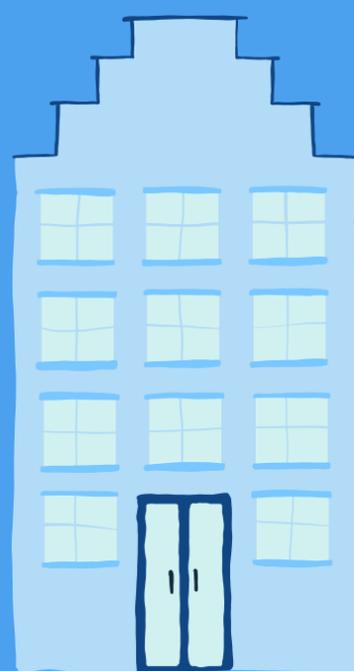


# LIVING IN APARTMENTS AND CONDOS



Evidence informed advice



## STRATA AND LANDLORD RESPONSIBILITIES

- Increase regular cleaning and disinfection of high touch points (e.g. elevator buttons, door handles, light switches, etc) and common areas (e.g. entries, hallways, laundry rooms, garbage, elevators, recreation rooms and storage areas).
- Hand sanitizer at entry and exit points is recommended.
- Post signage: physical distancing, COVID-19 symptoms, handwashing and self-isolation in entries, elevators, stairwells, and common areas.
- Gyms and swimming pools should be closed.
- Recreation rooms may remain open if physical distancing (6 ft or 2 m) is maintained.
- Landlords are not permitted to enter rental units without tenant consent unless a risk to personal property or life exists.
- Delays in repairs may occur when workmen prioritize their own safety.

## TENANT AND OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Keep common areas as clean as possible.
- Dispose of garbage & recycling in the correct containers.
- Use the laundry room outside of peak hours or create a roster for the suites. COVID-19 is not transmitted to clothing by dryers or washers.
- Avoid touching surfaces in common areas with fingers. Instead, open doors with an elbow, shoulder or behind; press an elevator button with a pen or an elbow.
- When in common areas, don't touch your face or food with your fingers. If you must touch your face, use your wrist.
- Assume all common door handles are contaminated even if they are regularly cleaned. Someone else has likely touched them since cleaning occurred.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with an elbow or a tissue even if you wear a mask. A forceful sneeze or cough can cause leakage through the fibers of a home-made mask or around a poorly fitting one.
- If you are sick, stay inside your own home, order groceries by telephone or online and ask someone to leave them outside your door. Make arrangements for a neighbour to take care of your garbage and groceries and leave them outside your door.
- Smile and a wave at neighbours but stay 6 ft (2 m) away from them. Either one of you could have COVID-19 and may not show symptoms. Transmission from a person who has COVID-19 with no symptoms is rare, but it can occur in people 1-3 days before symptoms develop.
- Minimize the number of trips outside if you use elevators or stairs and physical distancing in them is difficult.
- Wait for an empty elevator in which you can remain 6 ft (2 m) away from another person. Consider using the stairs.
- In situations where you cannot maintain physical distancing, face masks are of limited benefit. If used, they must be worn and disposed of properly. Otherwise, they can be a source of disease transmission. Information regarding risks and benefits of face masks is evolving.

## COMMUNICATION & PLANNING IN YOUR BUILDING

- It is everyone's responsibility to stay safe, wash hands, cover cough and practice physical distancing.
- A group chat (eg., facebook or whatsapp or text) with other tenants/occupants in the building/on the floor may offer helpful support.
- Create a plan with neighbours of what will occur if someone gets sick with COVID-19.
- Identify ways to engage people unfamiliar with social media or smart phones.
- Single parents or primary caregivers can identify a temporary caregiver in case they become unable to care for their loved ones or pets.
- Consider assigning a "COVID Captain" to segments of the apartment/condominium. They would ensure supports for any sick person (who chooses to self-identify) are arranged and that protection is in place for higher risk individuals.
- Supports for a sick person might include groceries, trash disposal, medical care and other supplies. Supplies are left outside the door.
- The 'COVID Captain' could network with the building maintenance/landlord/strata to ensure that proper cleaning and disinfection occurs in common areas.