

CONDO SAFETY

IN THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

MARIA
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Q: *Maria, what is the impact of the COVID-19 in multi-residential communities, and how best to keep our condos safe?*

A: Fears over the COVID-19 virus and its impact are quite valid. On March 17, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it as a global pandemic, and everyone has been cautioned of the necessity of proper personal hygiene, social distancing and staying home as the best ways to mitigate its spread.

These precautions, however, may not be enough in a multi-family setting, where residents not only live in close proximity but share common space. There is a need to reinforce the message at every opportunity, as the COVID-19 virus is highly infectious and can spread like the common cold.

There is heightened risk of catching the virus from contact in shared common areas, like the elevator, lobby, and amenity rooms. Door handles in common areas are especially susceptible.

It is thus important for condo managers to work with their boards and come up with a plan to help mitigate the spread of the virus. However - and I cannot stress this enough - personal responsibility should play a big

role in containing any potential outbreak in your condo.

Like most condo managers, we at New Concept Management Inc. (NCM) strongly recommend that the following precautionary measures be taken within your condo community.

Meetings (Board, AGM and Onsite):

I cannot stress this enough - social distancing is imperative! Condo managers and boards should, for the time being, use available technology for their meetings. Remote conference calls are the way to go.

Communication: I've said this hundreds of times over the years. Effective and timely communication is essential. Keep your condo community updated with current information and let residents know of what measures are being taken to safeguard the condo.

Neighbours: It is also important that we look after each other, especially if you know of seniors living in your condos who might need extra help.

Cleanliness: Step up cleaning measures. Maybe include additional cleaning and disinfecting of areas, especially frequently touched surfaces. Installing sanitizer stations in amenity rooms or reminders to residents about proper hygiene.

Playgrounds: If your condo community has a playground please follow the recommendations of Government and Health Authorities and issue a notice of closure to all residents.

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In closing, contact your healthcare provider/Health Link 811 if you have further questions or concerns. Please visit the links below to learn more.

Government of Alberta:
COVID-19 information for Albertans

Government of Canada:
COVID-19 Outbreak update

Government of Canada:
How to Self-isolate

Remember that everyone has a role to play in beating this pandemic. Until next time...Maria Bartolotti

Maria Bartolotti was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, a City she loves to call home. She is actively involved in many aspects of condo living since starting as a Condominium Property Manager in 2001. In 2005, she started her own Condominium Management firm, New Concept Management Inc., and has not looked back.

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