



SAINT LAZARUS

C A N A D A

Date: March 31, 2020

To: Commanders, Hospitallers and Members of the Order of St. Lazarus

From: Dr. Robert Boyko, Hospitaller and Dr. Ken Buchholz, Deputy Hospitaller

RE: COVID-19 Pandemic

As a Hospitaller Order, dedicated to supporting Palliative Care in Canada, we would like to remind all members to consider those at home, Emergency Rooms, Hospitals, Long Term Care Facilities, Hospice or Palliative Care Units who are suffering or dying with illness and disease, COVID-19 related or otherwise who may be isolated and alone given visiting restrictions imposed by institutions and government.

Please consider reaching out by phone, email, or video communication to stay connected. If you are able and willing consider assisting with shopping and prescription pick up for those in self-isolation, especially family and friends.

Ensure to follow health department recommendations and stay at home if you are ill with any respiratory symptoms. Only go out to buy essential products. Wash your hands often, don't touch your face, cough or sneeze into your elbow, avoid touching surfaces touched often, and keep a physical distance of 2 m. from others.

A note regarding PPE: Cloth masks or scarves are not effective means to prevent contracting COVID-19, they only limit spread of the virus from someone who is ill. If you have close physical contact with someone who is ill or immune compromised, you will need to wear proper Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) that includes a surgical face mask, gloves, eye protection and gown if available to wash or dispose of to protect clothes from droplet spread. These supplies are in short supply across the nation. If you have any of these items that are not needed, consider donating them to a local physician's office, hospice or hospital.

Commanderies should contact their local Hospice organizations to remind them of who we are and are here to support if needed, by way of physical or monetary donation. This is a good way to expend charitable dollars...even modest cash donations would assist. Remember the Online Home Caregiver Support Program is also available and free to use to support Caregivers in this time of need:

English Site - <http://stlazarus.sjatrainng.ca>

French Site - <http://stlazarusfr.sjatrainng.ca>