



For Immediate Release | July 4, 2021

Interior Health update on Castlegar long-term care wildfire evacuations

CASTLEGAR – Residents from Castlevue Care Centre are returning home today following the containment of the Merry Creek Wildfire and the lifting of evacuation orders in the community.

Residents from Castlevue Care Centre were relocated temporarily on June 30 due to the wildfire.

Residents from Talarico Place were also temporarily relocated on July 1 as a precautionary measure. Planning is underway to return residents to Talarico Place on Tuesday, July 6.

Talarico Place is owned and operated by Interior Health, while Castlevue Care Centre is owned and operated by Chantelle Management Ltd.

Interior Health and Chantelle Management Ltd. will provide updates to families directly as residents return.

Interior Health applauds local long-term care, acute and community teams for their efforts in safely moving all residents and providing ongoing care through the relocation. Families and local community members also provided supports to residents and staff during these challenging few days.

We also appreciate the response from BC Wildfire Service and the support of BC Transit, first responders, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, and other partners in the collective wildfire response.

The fire did not impact services at the Castlegar and District Community Health Centre and the Urgent and Primary Care Centre.

Interior Health continues to monitor wildfire activity across the region. Wildfire planning includes supporting anyone who is isolating due to COVID-19. We will ensure separate arrangements are made for anyone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 to protect the public from potential exposure.

Everyone is reminded to make preparations for wildfires, and smoky skies as air quality deteriorates by visiting: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/Emergency/Wildfires/Pages/default.aspx>

Install the BC Wildfire Service mobile app (Android or iOS) or visit the BC Wildfire Service Dashboard to find information on current wildfire activity:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

The FireWork Forecast shows maps of predicted smoke impacts over the next 48 hours:
<https://weather.gc.ca/firework/>