

For Immediate Release  
April 6, 2020

### **KDSB requests no visitors to senior housing units**

In order to help protect its senior tenants from the potential community spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) asks the public that there be no visitors, including family in all of its senior housing units effective April 6, 2020. If you do not reside within a senior housing building, it is recommended that you postpone your visit and use other means to connect with your friends and family.

Coronaviruses are spread mainly from person to person through close contact. The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) causes a respiratory infection that can be deadly for older people and people with chronic diseases.

Dr. Ian Gemmill from the Northwestern Health Unit says, “The people living in these buildings are more vulnerable to the complications of novel coronavirus. In these extraordinary times, all Canadians are being asked to stay home and keep to themselves as much as possible. This means VISITING older people. We ask that people respect this community standard, and not visit elderly people unless it is ABSOLUTELY necessary and essential to them.”

“Across the region, the Kenora District Services Board provides affordable and community housing to over 510 seniors. Due to the long-term care bed shortage in the region, more and more seniors are aging in our housing units, which means we are providing housing and supports to many vulnerable seniors. Their health and safety during these challenging times must be our collective priority. As such, we are asking all families and friends to NOT visit their loved ones in our senior housing buildings unless it is critical. Please help us by staying home; the lives of our seniors and elders depend on it.,” says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB.

The KDSB thanks its tenants, their family members and the District’s communities for their cooperation and understanding during this time.

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Media Contact:

Roberta Lappage, Communications Officer  
Kenora District Services Board  
(807) 223-2100 ext. 2474  
[rlappage@kdsb.on.ca](mailto:rlappage@kdsb.on.ca)