

RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 03-2020

Re: 2020 COVID-19 Response

I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

This investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.


Under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act* (the Act), I have the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a location for any period and subject to any conditions that I consider appropriate, where I have determined that the person engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. I also have the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Therefore, having determined that certain activities could transmit COVID-19 as an infectious agent and that certain other steps are necessary to lessen the impact of the public health emergency, I hereby make the following Order:

1. Effective immediately, all visitors, except those identified in this order, are prohibited from attending a health care facility in the Province of Alberta.
2. For the purposes of this order, a “health care facility” is defined as:
 - (a) an auxiliary hospital under the *Hospitals Act*;
 - (b) a nursing home under the *Nursing Homes Act*;
 - (c) a designated supportive living accommodation or a licensed supportive living accommodation under the *Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act*; and
 - (d) a lodge accommodation under the *Alberta Housing Act*.
3. Despite section 2, a health care facility that meets one of the definitions above, may be exempted, along with its visitors, from the application of this order, by me alone, on a case-by-case basis.
4. Only the essential visitor of a resident may attend a health care facility for the purposes of visiting a resident.
5. Despite section 4, in the circumstances where a resident is dying and subject to the approval of the essential visitor, the resident’s family, their religious leader(s), and their friends may also attend a health care facility for the purposes of visiting a resident.

6. For the purposes of this order, an “essential visitor” is, in relation to a resident of a health care facility, an individual who:
 - (a) is designated by the resident or the resident’s alternate decision-maker as their single essential visitor;
 - (b) provides care and companionship for the well-being of the resident; and
 - (c) has authority to decide who amongst a dying resident’s family/religious leader(s)/friends may attend a health care facility for the purposes of visiting a resident.
7. Only one individual may attend to a given resident at any time within a health care facility. For greater certainty, the essential visitor of a resident and their family/their religious leader/their friend may not attend the health care facility in which the resident resides at the same time.
8. Prior to allowing an individual to attend to a resident within their health care facility, a health care facility must:
 - (a) confirm whether the individual is, in relation to the resident being attended to, either:
 - i. the essential visitor of the resident, or
 - ii. a family member/religious leader/friend approved by the essential visitor;
 - (b) record the essential visitor’s or family member/religious leader/friend’s visit, including the date, time and information required to be collected under section 9(c) below; and
 - (c) conduct a health assessment with regards to the individual, including taking the individual’s temperature and requiring the individual to respond to a questionnaire prior to attending the resident.
9. This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 20 day of March, 2020.


Deena Hinshaw, MD
Chief Medical Officer of Health