

## **Information Bulletin #3 – March 23, 2020 About Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic**

### **For all Residents, Families, and Friends of Homeland Housing**

The Chief Medical Officer of Health announced enhanced **COVID-19 protection measures** for residents living in supportive living, seniors' lodges and long-term care. As such, additional measures must be taken to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, among seniors and vulnerable groups living in Homeland Housing Lodges and Supportive Living sites. Individuals over 60 years of age and those with pre-existing health conditions are most at risk of severe symptoms from COVID-19.

Based on the directive from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Homeland Housing is implementing the following changes at our Lodge and Supportive Living sites **effective today**:

- Only **one essential visitor** will be allowed to visit a resident. All other visitors are restricted from visiting. This means unless you are the **designated essential visitor** you will **not be allowed** to enter our lodges or supportive living sites until further notice.
- Alberta Health defines an **essential visitor** as a person over 18 years of age, selected by the resident to be their single essential visitor **that provides care and companionship for their well-being**. The essential visitor can be a family member, friend or paid companion.
- Alberta Health further outlines that an **essential visitor** "has the authority to decide amongst a dying resident's family/religious leader/friends may attend for the purposes of visiting a resident. Only one individual may attend to a given resident at any time."
- When the **essential visitor** arrives at the Lodge or Supportive Living site, and **prior** to visiting the resident, Homeland Housing is required to complete a health screening which includes a self-assessment health questionnaire and a temperature check. If the **essential visitor has a temperature, they will be asked to leave and contact Health Link at 811**. We ask **essential visitors** to **limit visiting hours** between 9 am to 7 pm daily.
- Lodge and Supportive Living sites are **locked 24 hours daily restricting public access**. Deliveries such as medication, grocery items, and other incidentals should be delivered between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday to Friday. All deliveries except medication will be left at administration/reception. **Individuals delivering medications** will undergo the health assessment and deliver the medications directly to the resident or homecare office.

Homeland Housing understands these measures are difficult but necessary to protect our residents and staff. We encourage families to reach out to residents daily. Even spending a few minutes on the telephone can go a long way toward reducing feelings of loneliness, isolation, and anxiety during these onerous times.

Over the coming weeks, Homeland Housing will continue to provide regular updates while we all adjust to the 'new normal.' Thank you for patience, cooperation and support over the coming weeks. Working together, we can reduce the spread of COVID-19.

**For the latest information about COVID-19, please visit:**