

Information Bulletin #5 – April 6, 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.

Based on the directive (**CMOH Order 08-2020**) from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Health Services, Homeland Housing is required to implement the following changes at our Lodge and Supportive Living sites **effective today**:

- **No visitors, including the essential visitor** are allowed to visit a resident. In rare circumstances, a site may make an exception and allow the **designated essential visitor** access where the resident's care needs cannot be met without their assistance or for end of life situations.
- 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.
- For **end of life** situations, the **essential visitor** must pre-arrange their visits with the site manager and be expected by the site manager or administration. The essential visitor must:
 - Complete a screening questionnaire to assess health risk;
 - Submit to a temperature check for a fever (over 38C);
 - Sign in and out for all visits;
 - Be escorted by site staff to the resident's room and remain in the resident's room for the duration of the visit. Visitation of other residents is not permitted; and
 - Use alcohol-based hand rub upon entry and leaving the site.
- 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**.
- Site staff, including homecare and AHS will continue to be screened and temperature taken upon arrival to work. Staff feeling unwell, or with a temperature of 38C or greater will be required to self-isolate and arrange for COVID-19 testing through Healthlink 811.

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.

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: