

Information Bulletin #6 – April 9, 2020 About Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

For all Residents, Families, Staff 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.

With warm weather and the Easter weekend approaching, many of us will reflect on the power of sacrifice for the greater good during this pandemic. I am writing to **remind** residents, families, and staff of the following:

- **No visitors, including the essential visitor** can visit a resident **within the lodge and outside on lodge property**.
- Directives from the Chief Medical Officer of Health recommend outdoor activities and walking for residents, but **they must remain on lodge property** and practice physical (social) distancing. **Do not go out into the community** to run errands such as shopping or banking or visiting family and friends. Being in the community increases the risk of contracting COVID-19 which we know can be fatal for older people and those with chronic or underlying health conditions.
- Residents are reminded that when **outdoors on lodge property**, practice **physical (social) distancing**. Stay six feet apart (the length of a hockey stick) from each other.
- 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**.
- For the **Easter weekend**, family members are welcome to **arrange delivery** of flowers, chocolate, cards to their loved one during the weekend between **9:00 am and 6:00 pm**. Delivery people will not be allowed to enter the lodge. Gifts will be received by the 'door greeter' and delivered to your loved one.
- 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.
- Non-compliance of the directives from the Chief Medical Officer of Health may result in fines starting at \$1,000.

Homeland Housing understands these measures are difficult but necessary to protect our residents and staff. We need your help in reducing and eliminating the spread of COVID-19 by following the directives and staying at home.

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.

We are working on setting up a computer station at each of our sites for residents to access Skype and video conferencing. This work is set to start next week.

Thank you for patience, cooperation and support over the coming weeks. Working together, we can reduce the spread of COVID-19 and bring an end to this pandemic.

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

Government of Alberta	alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx
Alberta Health Services	albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx
Government of Canada	canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirusdisease-covid-19.html