

Information Bulletin #8 – May 26, 2020 About Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

For all Residents, Families, Staff, and Friends of Homeland Housing

On May 14, 2020 Phase I of Alberta’s Relaunch Strategy was introduced allowing gradual reopening of businesses, resuming activities and getting people back to work. These changes are encouraging and serve as a reminder of the sacrifices all Albertans have made to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and continuing care sites. The relaunch, along with nice weather has created a sense of optimism that the worst is behind us, however, we need to remind ourselves that COVID-19 is still in the community and the relaunch or return to normal for continuing care settings cannot occur at the same pace. COVID-19 has been particularly devastating for older individuals and those living in continuing care settings, so exercising caution and a slower relaunch enhances safety for our residents and staff.

On May 25, 2020, the Chief Medical Officer of Health issued directive CMOH 23-2020 which applies to continuing care settings. Homeland Housing will fully implement these changes at our Lodge and Supportive Living sites **effective June 1, 2020**.

Hair Salon Services will resume with restrictions such as wearing of face masks, practicing physical distancing and daily health checks and temperatures. Hair salons at all our sites will begin re-opening on June 1, 2020. To celebrate the re-opening, Homeland Housing will provide a complimentary cut and style at no cost for our residents from June 1 to July 30, 2020. Manicures and pedicures will not be offered at this time. Residents are encouraged to make their hair salon appointment in advance due to service demand, the need for physical distancing, and enhanced cleaning and disinfection of the salon area between clients. Residents are reminded not to line up or wait for their appointment. Site staff will call you when the hair stylist is ready for your appointment and provide you with a medical procedure face mask. We urge residents to use our site hair salon services for convenience and to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 that may be acquired in the community.

Regulated Health Services such as podiatry, hearing aids, denturist services may resume provided that the site has designated space and hand washing facilities to support the service. The regulated health professional and the resident must wear a medical procedure mask while receiving services and use alcohol-based hand rub upon entering and leaving the treatment area. Residents are reminded not to line up or wait for their appointment. Site staff will call you when the health professional is ready for your appointment.

Recreation Activities may resume for groups of **up to 15 residents** and physical distancing must be practiced. Entertainment groups are limited to two individuals playing musical instruments with no vocals. Singing is considered a high-risk activity because infected musicians can transmit the virus through their saliva and respiratory droplets. Entertainers are required to wear a face mask when on site and practice physical distancing. Community and bus outings are suspended until June 25, 2020. Recreation programs involving food preparation is not allowed. Individual wrapped pre-plated food/snack items may be provided at recreation programs for residents. Restrictions on the use of books and puzzles from site libraries and lounges remain in place.

Outbreak Classifications have changed to include:

Outbreak Prevention:	No residents or staff with COVID-19 like symptom(s);
Under Investigation:	At least one resident or staff with COVID-19 like symptoms(s); and
Confirmed Outbreak:	Any one resident or staff with a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Visiting in the Community is **discouraged until June 25, 2020** to allow time for public health to determine the effectiveness of infection control practices during the Phase I economic relaunch. Visiting in the community, going shopping and being around others increases the possibility of contracting the infection, then returning to the lodge and spreading it to other residents and staff. If there is a need to attend a medical appointment, or access other essential services, residents are required to wear a medical procedure mask and practice physical distancing. Upon return to the lodge, residents are required to practice hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand rub, complete a health/symptoms questionnaire and have their temperature taken. Homeland Housing will provide medical procedure masks for residents. Family members taking residents to

appointments are reminded to wear a face mask and practice physical distancing. Regardless of your choices, residents are reminded to wear a medical procedure face mask when in public, practice hand and respiratory etiquette, and do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.

What is Still in Place?

Designated Outdoor Visits continue between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm daily. Visits must be scheduled by the resident or designated essential visitor by calling the site during regular business hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm daily).

Visitor Restrictions continue as outlined in the CMOH Order 08-2020. The Designated Essential Visitor may be provided site access if a resident's care needs cannot be met by on-site staff or AHS or for end-of-life care. In these situations, the Designated Essential Visitor must pre-arrange visits with the site manager. 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 of alcohol-based hand rub upon entry and leaving the site.

Restricted Public Access continue, and our Lodge and Supportive Living sites are locked 24 hours daily. Deliveries such as medication, grocery items, and other incidentals should be delivered between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday to Friday.

Staff Screening including site staff, homecare and AHS continues. Upon arrival to work, staff complete a health questionnaire and have their temperature taken. Staff feeling unwell, or with a temperature of 38C or greater will be required to self-isolate for 14 days and arrange for COVID-19 testing through the online AHS essential worker portal.

Resident Surveillance monitoring continues. On a daily basis, each resident is assessed, and their temperature is taken. If a resident has new or worsening COVID-19 like symptoms and a temperature above 37.8 C, they are isolated and tested for COVID-19. Residents are required to immediately self-isolate for 14 days.

Dining Services continue to be modified with two residents at each table and tables spaced two metres apart wherever possible. Restrictions on the use of cloth napkins and condiment containers remain in place.

Enhanced Cleaning continues with emphasis on cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces such as bathrooms, door handles, elevator buttons, common area furnishings, and resident use recreation equipment and computers. During a confirmed outbreak, resident room high touch areas and bathrooms are disinfected twice daily.

Staff Use of Medical Procedure Masks continue if a staff member is providing direct resident care, or in other circumstances when maintaining physical distancing is not always possible. Examples include during meal service, when cleaning or maintaining a resident's room.

Virtual Visits continue. Each of our sites have a community computer(s) available to residents to video conference with family. Recreation and administrative staff would be pleased to set up a virtual visit.

On a personal note, I would like to thank our residents, families, and staff for their patience, support, and coming together in this fight against COVID-19. While we are not out of the woods, your choices, behaviours, and sacrifices of the past ten weeks have made a positive difference for our residents and countless Albertans. There is no doubt the pandemic has been particularly stressful for our residents and their quality of life. My hope over the coming weeks is we can return to enjoying the summer and spending time with each other in a meaningful way.

Take care and stay well,

Raymond Cormie, CEO
Homeland Housing

For the Latest Information about COVID-19, Please Visit:

Government of Alberta www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx

Alberta Health Services www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx

Government of Canada www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html