



Document : 01

Subject: Guideline RECORD-OF DECISION – CMOH Order 03-2020 re: visitation in licensed supportive living and long-term care.

Date Issued: March 22, 2020

Scope of Application: As per RECORD-OF DECISION – CMOH Order 03-2020

Distribution: All licensed supportive living (including group homes, lodges and including Indigenous supportive living settings) and long-term care (nursing homes and auxiliary hospitals).

Purpose:

This guidance supplements the application of RECORD-OF DECISION – CMOH Order 03-2020 (the Order), outlining the requirements for all operators, staff, residents, as well as the families and friends of those residents who live within the facilities to which the Order applies. The intent of this guidance is to protect the health and safety of residents and staff in these facilities.

Key Messages:

Individuals over 60 years of age and those with pre-existing health conditions are most at risk of severe symptoms from COVID-19. To prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, among seniors and vulnerable groups:

- Visitors to any continuing care facility (all licensed supportive living and long-term care) in Alberta are limited to a single individual designated by the resident or guardian (or other alternate decision-maker).
- Each essential visitor must be verified and undergo a health screening prior to entering the facility. This includes a temperature check and a questionnaire.
- Facilities must have security staff or a greeter to conduct this screening and verify the visitor as the designate.
- Exceptions to these essential visitor rules can be made by the designated visitor for the resident’s family, their religious leader(s), and their friends to visit a person who is dying, so long as only one visitor enters the facility at a time.

Designated Essential Visitors

- One essential visitor must be designated by the resident/client, or their alternate decision-maker.
 - This means only a single individual is designated.
 - The designated essential visitor can be a family member, friend or companion. The designated

- essential visitor cannot be under 18 years of age.
- The site contact (e.g. director of care, case manager, facility administrator) will confirm each designated essential visitor and ensure that they meet the criteria in this document.
- The site contact can make exceptions for the resident’s family, their religious leader(s), and their friends to visit a person who is dying, so long as only one visitor enters the facility at a time.
- Visits from the designated essential visitor are limited to visits meeting either of the following two criteria:
 - Visits which provide care and companionship for the well-being of the resident, or
 - Visits in circumstances where a resident is dying (see above).
- Designated essential visitors may carry out care related activities, as appropriate, which are normally provided by a visitor or where staff are unable to provide due to emergent pandemic impacts, and have been provided with appropriate guidance, if needed.
- Operators are expected to support each resident, or guardian/alternate decision-maker, to ensure that a designated essential visitor is identified.
- Operators are expected to ensure only the designated essential or exempted visitor is allowed into the site at any time.
- Operators are expected to ensure that Health Assessment Screening (see below) is conducted on every visit.

Health Assessment Screening

All facilities shall have security person or greeter to assess the health designated visitor. Any designated visitor who intends to enter a licensed supportive living or long-term care facility must be screened. This screening must be completed each time the designated visitor enters the site.

Screening shall involve the following:

1. Temperature screening:
 - The temperature of all designated visitors must be taken by a non-invasive infrared or similar device (oral thermometers must not be used).
 - For reference, normal temperatures are:
 - Ear/forehead 35.8-38.0°C (96.4-100.4°F)
 - Anyone with a measured temperature of 38.0C or higher **MUST NOT** be admitted to the facility and should be advised to leave the building in order to protect the health of the residents.
2. COVID-19 Questionnaire

1.	Do you have any of the below symptoms:		
	● Fever	YES	NO
	● Cough	YES	NO
	● Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	● Sore throat	YES	NO
	● Runny Nose	YES	NO
	● Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	● Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea	YES	NO
2.	Have you, or anyone in your household travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Have you had close contact (face-to-face contact within 2 meters/6 feet) with someone who is ill with cough and/or fever?	YES	NO

4.	Have you, or anyone in your household been in contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?	YES	NO
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If a designated visitor answers YES to any of the questions, the individual **MUST NOT** be admitted to the facility and should be advised to leave the building in order to protect the health of the residents.

3. Confirmation of “designated visitor” status
4. Documentation of arrival and exit times

Operators are encouraged to visit Alberta Health’s website to www.alberta.ca/COVID19 for updated information. If there are any questions, please contact asal@gov.ab.ca.