

March 11, 2020

Dear RHA Membership,

At this time, we want to acknowledge the current health situation known as the coronavirus (COVID-19) that continues to evolve and is being shared across news media. Please know that the safety and wellbeing of staff and individuals in service is paramount, and we are monitoring the situation closely, using Alberta Health Services (AHS) information, updates and protocol. Although the World Health Organization (WHO) has recently declared the coronavirus a pandemic, at this point, AHS informs us the risk in Alberta from Covid-19 remains low.

In taking precautions to prevent potential health impacts, the Association is/will:

- Reminding all staff to use their Universal Precautions training and skills accordingly, including frequent hand washing, coughing and sneeze etiquette, staying home if feeling ill, and calling the 811 Health Link if there are any questions or concerns about your health or someone that you support. Staff who are medically unfit for work may be sent home by supervisors to ensure health and wellbeing of peers and individuals receiving supports. Due to strain on the Alberta Health Care system, until further notice, RHA will no longer require medical notes for related sick time.
- Continue to activate proven illness protocols including close monitoring and reporting processes.
- Implementing a strong “High-touch surface” sanitizing program across all commercial facilities, residential homes, and transportation vehicles.
- Installation of several additional alcohol-based hand sanitizers stations across all commercial facilities to use when hand washing is not accessible in the moment.
- Distributing visual aid material across the Association on proper hand washing technique and safe cough etiquette.
- Conduct additional washroom checks by the Facility Management custodial staff at each commercial facility to ensure sufficient supplies of soap and towels.
- Conducting inventories on all critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure staff and individuals in service are kept safe if the situation progresses.
- Provide ongoing information and communication via the Occupational Health & Safety steering committee as this situation evolves.
- Thorough review of RHA’s pandemic influenza preparation guideline has been completed and is ready if Alberta Health declares a pandemic.
- Inventories of residential non-perishable food and household supplies are being conducted to ensure responsible preparation and spending.
- Full review of all critical operations, systems, and supports with VPN access (work from home)
- The Program Management team is currently building a “unified practical implementation plan” to compliment our pandemic preparation guideline.
- Organizational policies and procedures are subject to change at the discretion of RHA’s CEO and or Board of Directors if the situation progresses.
- Questions regarding the coronavirus and RHA’s preparation guidelines can be submitted to RHASafety@robinhoodassoc.com The OH&S steering committee will review, research and respond to questions weekly using a FAQ format.

As this is an evolving situation we encourage staff and individuals to visit the following websites for additional information.

www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html

www.alberta.ca/coronavirus

www.ahs.ca/ncov

Sincerely,



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