



Memo to All Membership/families/guardians & RHA Staff,

May 28, 2020 Updates

From: Chief Executive Officer and Emergency Operating Team (EOT)

As RHA moves towards some relaunch efforts across the organization, which has been recently shared in our Staged Approach Relaunch, a new Public Health Order has been released. EOT has been working hard to interpret the new requirements and are continuing to request clarification on the definition of isolation requirements from AHS. As we had anticipated the next stage of planning to include individuals returning to some services we now find we are up against some major limitations as a result of this new order:

- There is a severe lack of PPE (specifically gowns). When an individual returns to a RHA Residence we are required to have them placed on 14 day isolation and staff using full PPE. RHA is asking for clarity on the definition of 14 day isolation (i.e. all research suggests an individual must be isolated in their own room away from other residents and staff must wear full PPE to support). This is a significant challenge for most of the individuals returning from their family home to be expected to isolate to this degree when they are not symptomatic. We are working hard to get a definitive answer, if our interpretation is correct we will be strongly advocating to have an exemption to this requirement which must be approved by the Chief Medical Officer.
- In the **Table 3 – Testing and Isolation Overview** (below) it clearly outlines isolation requirements for individuals returning to homes under many different scenarios.
- We have attached the **Purpose and Key Messages** that comes directly out of this order for your information.
- New standards in the order include **Safe Transportation**, which includes, individuals transported in private vehicles, public transit and/or RHA transportation **must wear a mask**. At this time there are no requirements of the type of mask an individual may use, ie. Disposable or washable. The cost of masks for individuals will be the responsibility of the individuals/Trustee. **RHA Transportation Services will require all persons to wear masks immediately or will not be able to enter a vehicle.**
- Attachment to this memo is a letter from Dr. Deena Hineshaw addressed to residents.

Please read the following below for more clarification pertaining to the information above, that is directly copied from 23-2020 Health Order.

We continue to ask for your cooperation and understanding as we try to navigate all the continually changing requirements.

Thank you,

Ann Marie LePan

Chief Executive Officer

[Robin Hood Association](#) | 141 Broadway Blvd., Sherwood Park, AB | T8H 2A4

P: 780-467-7140 Ext. 1225 | F: 780-449-2028

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



New Chief Medical Officer Health (CMOH) Order 23-2020 which amends CMOH Order 10-2020 issued May 25, 2020

Purpose

The operational expectations outlined here are required under the Record of Decision – CMOH Order 23-2020 (the Order) and are applicable to all licensed supportive living (including group homes and lodges) and long-term care (LTC) facilities, unless otherwise indicated. They set requirements for all operators¹, residents², staff³, students⁴ as well as any designated essential visitors⁵.

- These expectations outline the operational and outbreak standards that apply to support early recognition and swift action for effective management of COVID-19 amongst vulnerable populations.
- These expectations may change existing requirements (e.g., in the Supportive Living and Long Term Care Accommodation Standards, the Continuing Care Health Service standards), but are required for the duration of this Order. Otherwise, those expectations are unchanged.
- These expectations apply to all staff including any person employed by or contracted by the site, or an Alberta Health Services (AHS) employee working within or visiting the site (e.g., home care), or another essential worker.

Key Messages

- As other parts of Alberta begin to relaunch, it continues to be important to maintain strong protections in place within these settings to minimize the introduction of and risk of virus transmission and spread.
- It is imperative that residents remain vigilant in their actions to protect themselves and others around them from COVID-19. Residents remain at extremely high risk of severe outcomes if they contract COVID-19.

¹ Operator means any operator, service provider, site administration or other staff member responsible for areas impacted by these expectations.

² A resident is any person who lives within one of these sites (sometimes called clients).

³ Any person employed by or contracted by the site (including hairstylists and barbers), or an Alberta Health Services employee or other essential worker.

⁴ Any person who is participating in a student placement or practicum allowed by the operator and the post-secondary institution.

⁵ As per Order 14-2020



- Individuals over 60 years of age and those with pre-existing health conditions are the most at risk of severe symptoms from COVID-19, especially when they live in close proximity as occurs within congregate settings.
- Tests for COVID-19 can only detect the virus at the time of the swab collection and provides only a point in time result. Someone with a negative test result may still go on to develop COVID-19 during the incubation period of 14 days after exposure.
- To prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, among seniors and vulnerable groups, we are setting a number of expectations that apply to operators, staff, residents and designated essential visitors.
- The intent of these expectations is to help ensure that seniors and other vulnerable individuals living and working in these congregate settings are kept as physically safe as possible, mitigating the risks of COVID-19 – which are significant – as well as other infections.
- These expectations are intended to safeguard people for the duration of the pandemic. However, there is also the recognition that socialization and activity are an important part of quality of life in these congregate settings. This order includes both guidance to be considered to also support broader quality of life for residents as well as to support staff quality of work life and wellbeing.



Table 3: Testing and Isolation Overview

Scenario	Isolation Required* ⁶	Days Isolated	Offer Testing ⁷
Symptomatic resident	Yes	10 from symptom onset <u>OR</u> until symptoms resolve <i>Whichever is longer</i>	Yes
Positive COVID-19 test	Yes	10 from symptom onset <u>OR</u> until symptoms resolve <i>Whichever is longer</i>	-
Close contact with someone who has COVID-19	Yes	14	Yes
New admission to facility (regardless of where they moved in from)	Yes	14	Yes
Current resident who returns from hospital admission <i>related</i> to confirmed COVID-19	Yes	14 from symptom onset <u>OR</u> until symptoms resolve <i>Whichever is longer</i>	No
Current resident who returns from hospital admission <i>unrelated</i> to COVID-19	Yes	14	Yes
Return from emergency department	No	-	No
Return from essential activity ⁸	No	-	No
Return from non-essential activity	No	-	No
Return from Temporary Relocation (return from move out to stay with a family member or other for a period of time longer than 24 hours)	Yes	14	Yes
Routine asymptomatic testing	No	-	Yes
Situation Specific as per Chief Medical Officer of Health/designate	As per CMOH/designate	As per CMOH/designate	As per CMOH/designate

⁶ Operators retain the ability to take a risk-based approach in requesting residents isolate in consultation with Zone MOH/designate.

⁷ Residents should only be tested if they have not tested positive in the past 30 days

⁸ Including medical appointment, groceries, pharmacy, outdoor time, employment, etc. If operator believes there was an increased exposure risk while out of the facility, isolation and testing *may* be indicated.



Safe Transportation

Any transportation must be done as safely as possible. Operators must communicate the following Safe Transportation expectations to residents and families as appropriate. Residents, families and visitors are responsible for contributing both to their own safety and to the safety of the other residents and staff at the site to which the resident will return.

- Transportation within private vehicles (e.g., if resident drives self or when a visitor or family member picks up a resident)
 - The resident or visitor/family member will ensure that the vehicle has been cleaned and disinfected prior to the resident entering, with focus on high touch surfaces (e.g. handles, steering wheel, window controls, armrests, seat belts, etc.)
 - Driver and all passengers must be masked
 - The driver and resident/passengers will sit as far apart as possible, minimizing the number of passengers in the vehicle (e.g. one driver with resident sitting as far away as possible)

- Public Transit (including city busses, LRT, handi-bus, etc.)
 - Follow guidelines set out by municipal transit operators to maintain safety
 - Maintain safe physical distancing
 - Wear a mask
 - Frequently use hand sanitizer and especially after having contact with high touch surfaces (e.g. armrests, doors and railings, handles, etc.)
 - Refer to [physical distancing tips for public transportation](#)

- Transportation within facility operated vehicles (shuttle buses, vans, etc.)
 - Ensure vehicle has been cleaned and disinfected prior to residents entering, with a focus on high touch surfaces (e.g. handles, steering wheel, window controls, armrests, seat belts, etc.)
 - **The driver and passengers must be masked (residents, staff, driver)**
 - Sit as far apart as possible, minimizing the number of passengers in the vehicle
 - Frequently use hand sanitizer and especially after having contact with high touch surfaces (e.g. armrests, vehicle doors and handles, etc.)