

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

# Enhanced Public Health Measures & Congregate Care Settings

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Given the new measure to have no indoor or outdoor social gatherings in any setting, are residents allowed to leave a congregate care site to visit their family members?

- Like all Albertans, residents must not engage in **social visits** in indoor residential settings (e.g., in someone else's home) or outdoor settings.
  - However, residents who have regular home visits (e.g. weekends at home with a parent/spouse) as part of their regular schedule or care plan may continue, and residents would not be restricted from going home to their primary or secondary residence (e.g. with family or guardian(s)).
  - This applies only for those residents where spending time in a secondary residence is a key part of their care plan. All residents to whom this applies should be encouraged to reduce frequency of off-site home visits if possible, and to stay on-site except when absolutely necessary.

Are residents allowed to leave the congregate care site to go shopping or for other activities?

- Yes, although residents are strongly encouraged to stay on-site except in the case of necessity, which will vary by resident.
- Like all Albertans, residents must not engage in social visits in indoor residential settings or outdoor settings.
- As per CMOH Order 32, upon return to the facility, the resident is expected to have an open discussion with the operator about their risk of unknown exposure (See Table 9) and collectively determine if additional safety precautions are required.
  - Additional safety precautions may include twice daily symptom checks, continuous masking when outside of their room for 14 days or quarantine for 14 days.

What if residents choose to engage in prohibited activities?

- It is against the law to engage in prohibited activities.
- Like all Albertans, residents who choose not to follow public health orders may be subject to fines of up to \$1,000.
- Anyone who chooses not to follow public health orders puts those around them at risk.
- As per CMOH Order 32, upon return to the facility, the resident is expected to have an open discussion with the operator about their risk of unknown exposure (See Table 9 in CMOH Order 32) and collectively determine if additional safety precautions are required.
- Additional safety precautions may include twice daily symptom checks, continuous masking when outside of their room for 14 days or quarantine for 14 days.
- All prohibited activities are considered high risk.

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**Given the restriction on indoor social gatherings in any setting, are residents still able to visit, dine, and participate in scheduled recreation programming with one another?**

- Non-isolated and non-quarantined residents can continue to visit one another in natural, self-directed ways.
- Meal and dining services and regularly scheduled recreation programs can continue with existing precautions in place (including consideration for meal/table cohorts).
- However, staff should take this opportunity to review planned activities and adjust plans to make them as safe as possible.
- Although visiting within the building is still being allowed, in the spirit of helping to ensure safety for all, residents should also take this opportunity to reduce their social contacts with other residents within their site to the greatest extent possible (e.g., consider connecting using the phone or other mechanisms, whenever possible).

**Given the restriction on indoor and outdoor social gatherings in any setting, are there any changes to the visitor policy?**

- Like all Albertans, under the new restrictions, indoor and outdoor **social visitors** are not permitted.
- However, visits for any reason from Designated Family/Support Persons (DFSP) and visits from non-DFSP in extenuating circumstances (e.g. end of life) must continue as outlined in CMOH Order 29-2020.
- DFSP are encouraged to limit their own presence, informed by resident needs, and to minimize their own risk of unknown exposure.

**Does the guidance permitting people who live alone to have up to two non-household contacts apply to residents in congregate care sites?**

- Each resident has the opportunity to name up to two named Designated Family/Support Persons (DFSP).
  - These DFSP are considered to be the two non-household contacts.
- Visits for any reason from Designated Family/Support Persons (DFSP) and visits from non-DFSP in extenuating circumstances must continue as outlined in CMOH Order 29-2020.
- Health care workers / professionals are not included in non-household contacts (these services must be permitted to continue).

**Does the new measure to have no indoor social gatherings in any setting affect staff, volunteers, or health professionals entering a site?**

- Volunteers and health professionals continue to be permitted.
- All persons delivering services must limit workplace interaction to work business only (e.g. no social gatherings).
- All guidance must be followed at all times, including in breakrooms (e.g. continuous masking, hand hygiene, physical distancing, etc.).
- All persons delivering services are encouraged to minimize their own risk of unknown exposure by following all public health orders.

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**Given the new restriction on indoor group physical activities, are group fitness activities now prohibited at congregate care sites?**

- Group fitness classes may continue in congregate care settings, with existing precautions in place as per CMOH Order 32-2020.
- Staff should take this opportunity to review planned activities and adjust plans to make them as safe as possible.

**Are site tours permitted under the new restrictions?**

- Virtual touring should continue as much as possible. On-site tours are supported only if they are essential to making a decision (and by appointment only if in an enhanced region), following all requirements in CMOH Order 32-2020.

**Are hair salons in congregate care settings impacted by the new restrictions?**

- Hair salons in continuing care settings may remain open to support essential hair hygiene services **to residents** who require it as part of their care plan.
  - They are permitted to provide hair hygiene only (i.e. shampooing).
- Other cosmetic services will not be permitted (e.g. hair coloring, perms, etc.).
- They must only provide services to residents of the site that they are housed in (i.e. they may not provide services to staff, visitors or public).

**Do the new announcements affect residents' access to health professionals?**

- Residents may still access health professionals, as per CMOH Order 32-2020.

**How can residents safely accept gifts from their loved ones?**

- Gifts are permitted, following any additional operator protocol, which may include disinfecting the item at entry.

For more information, please visit [alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures](https://alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures) or contact [asal@gov.ab.ca](mailto:asal@gov.ab.ca)