



Date: December 31, 2021

Dear Residents and loved ones of Allen Gray Care Centre,

We are on “Confirmed Covid-19 Outbreak” as of Dec.31, 2021

We have two staff members who tested positive for covid-19. First staff member as of Dec.29th and second staff as of Dec. 31st on two different units.

- ❖ Please see the attached updates for Omicron PPE Recommendations.
- ❖ There is a new form for visitor, staff and resident screening.

As you are aware, the Omicron variant has been identified in Alberta. Out of an abundance of caution, the Chief Medical Officer of Health is introducing some additional measures for continuing care. If you are exposed and if you have any symptoms, please do not visit the site. We also encourage everyone to take the Covid-booster dose as it provides 75 % protection for against Covid-19.

CMOH-Order 58-2021- Updates includes the following:

- Fully immunized, asymptomatic LTC, DSL, and hospice staff who are known close contacts to a case of COVID-19 will be required to take a daily rapid test for 10 days following their exposure. Requirements for staff who are not fully immunized remain the same and they are excluded for a 14 day period following the last exposure (All our staff are fully vaccinated). .
- Residents returning from an absence of greater than 24 hours and asymptomatic fully immunized residents who have recently been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 are required to wear a surgical/procedure mask for 14 days while in common areas, except when eating and drinking, and actively screen for symptoms daily. Where onsite capacity allows, rapid testing on days 1, 3 and 7 post-return or post-exposure is recommended.
 - o Quarantine requirements for asymptomatic residents who are not fully immunized who have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 remain the same.
- Effective immediately, and as supplies allow, it is recommended that all staff use either a well-fitted surgical/procedure mask OR a seal-checked respirator continuously while on shift. Please continue to use the blue surgical mask.
- Any staff member providing direct care to a suspect, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 is required to wear PPE that is comprised of eye protection, gown, gloves and a respirator.
- **Visiting persons may use their own seal-checked KN-95 mask. If you do not have one, a well fitted surgical/procedure mask is required.**



- o LTC, DSL and hospice operators are required to offer visitors a surgical/procedure mask if visitors do not have their own KN-95.

Updates within Order 58-2021 should be implemented as quickly as possible, but no later than January 5, 2022.

Site access will be limited for designated support persons and visitors who are close contacts of a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19. The limitation will pertain to all designated support persons and visitors, even if they are fully immunized, until we have more information about the risks of transmissibility posed by Omicron.

This means that anyone who is a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or has a case of COVID-19 in their home cannot access continuing care sites as a designated support person or visitor for **14 days** from the date of their last exposure.

Given this additional limitation to access, it is extremely important that frontline staff work with residents and their designated support persons to arrange for an alternate designated support person, should the primary not be able to access the site. It is also important to provide alternate communication options such as video chat and phone calls”.

The following measures needs to be followed in order to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 Variants:

- **Mask and eye protection for both staff and visitors at all times- implementing as of today. (unfortunately no exemption can be made while on Covid-19 outbreak).**
- Twice daily high touch and low touch cleaning.
- Maintain strict hand hygiene, Physical distancing
- Limit social gatherings, and small group activities with residents
- Cohort residents to the same table to limit any exposure
- Only 2 residents/table to keep physical distancing.

Please read these guidelines before your next visit:

- Please do not visit the Site unless you are fully vaccinated. Otherwise, please bring a negative PCR/Rapid test upon visits.
- Only two family members are allowed to visit residents on the units. Please do not visit residents other than your loved ones. Please stay in resident’s room as much as possible to avoid exposure to other residents.
- Visitors should refrain from eating/drinking at the Site.




As COVID-19 cases still continue to occur in the community, we would like to encourage everyone eligible to get immunized against COVID-19 as soon as possible. Immunization protects yourself and others and helps to prevent severe illness and hospitalization.

The health and safety of residents, families and staff is our first priority and a responsibility we take very seriously. Should there be any further updates, we will provide these to you as we receive them for the duration of the outbreak.

Again, Thank you and we appreciate all the support and concern.

Sincerely,

Manju George, DOC 
Charlotte McFadden, CEO