



## MEMORANDUM

October 26, 2021

### **All Residents, Families, Staff and Physicians of Allen Gray Continuing Care Centre COVID-19 Pandemic Update – COVID-19**

Pandemic update as follows:

- Further to our last update from October 22nd, 2021, the orders from Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta that are effective Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as per the following
  - Dr. Hinshaw has written a letter to residents, families, operators, and staff indicating the following:
    - “Access to support and companionship from family and friends continues to be supported as essential to the maintenance of resident mental and physical health and wellbeing. As residents' risk tolerance varies across these settings, proof of vaccination for families and friends will not be a provincially mandated requirement. I am however implementing some increased required measures as noted below. In addition, operators have authority to implement additional site-based policies and processes for COVID-19 prevention (including requiring proof of vaccine or rapid testing) as appropriate to local and consideration of resident preferences. Once the site-based policies and processes have been developed, they will apply to all persons entering the site. As always, I strongly recommend and encourage that all Albertans, and especially the family and friends of residents in these settings, be fully immunized against COVID-19. This is the most important thing you can do to protect not only yourself but also residents and staff. In addition to being fully immunized, wearing a mask continuously while indoors and in the resident rooms (unless a significant communication barrier is present) and staying home if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (even if mild and even if you are fully vaccinated) are critical. If you are not fully immunized please reconsider your need to visit the resident onsite, indoors and in-person before entering the site. Those who are not fully immunized are significantly higher risk to transmit COVID-19 to people living and working in the setting. Alternatives to onsite indoor in-person visits include outdoor visits, virtual visits, and telephone calls.”
- Based on these new orders, we will be implementing the following **effective Monday, November 1, 2021**
  - Visitors and Designated Family Support Persons (DFSPs) must show proof of being fully immunized when entering the site. Please print or have your QR code on your mobile device for your Alberta Vaccination Record. Our

screeners will scan the QR code with our mobile device to confirm your immunization status.

- o DFSPs and **only DFSPs who are not fully immunized** and still wish to enter the site as an essential visitor must either:
    - present a negative PCR test, Rapid Antigen Test obtained with 72 hours prior to entry or
    - If any DFSP has satisfactory proof of an exemption to being fully immunized, their entry to the site must be approved by the Director of Care or on-call personnel, if after hours or on the weekend. This only applies to DFSPs and not regular visitors
  - o Children under the age of 12 will be allowed to enter the site without proof of immunization or testing at this time
  - o There will be no exceptions to the above, so please ensure that your DFSP status is updated and current on our records prior to the implementation date of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. DFSPs will be limited to 2 with a maximum of 4 persons per resident. Again, no exceptions
  - o All staff, physicians, volunteers, contractors, etc., entering the site must also be fully immunized
  - o If you are not fully immunized, I encourage you to access accurate, science-based information to make an informed decision. Please see the Alberta COVID-19 Vaccine Program at <https://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx> for reliable information.
- ☐ To continue to address the risk of COVID-19, we will continue to actively screen all persons who enter the site and prior to the start of the shift for staff
- o Actively screened involves a satisfactory COVID-19 screening using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist
  - o The screening **must be confirmed by the screener** upon entry
  - o It is absolutely critical that if any symptoms, no matter how mild and regardless of the individual's vaccine status, are identified on health screening, then **THEY MUST NOT ENTER** the site
  - o Temperature checks are done at the screening desk.
  - o All visitors need to sign in and out every visit. ***The screeners will not sign in/out for you.***
- ☐ As per the new orders, all visiting persons must wear a surgical/procedure mask in all indoor areas of the building (including resident rooms). We have not removed this condition from the last outbreak, so this continues and is in placenow
- o Visiting persons who are spending time with a resident with communication challenges i.e., hearing concerns, etc.) Where a mask would inhibit communication being provided can remove the mask while in a private space in the building if the resident consents and a distance of two meters is maintained between the visitor and the resident at all times.
  - o This condition again must be approved by either the Director of Care or on-call personnel if after hours or on the weekend and will then be noted on the resident's care plan for future visits
  - o Neither drinks nor food items are allowed to be consumed by either DFSPs



- or visitors anywhere in the site as this would mean removal of the required mask
- o If you wear your own personal mask into the site, please remove it and put in your bag, purse or pocket for later and accept one of our masks from the screener
  - While visiting, we ask you kindly to stay in the residents' room or private space for the duration of your visit. If you need to speak to someone, please ring the call bell and someone will assist you as soon as possible.
  - In addition, under the new orders, residents must now be tested within 48 hours of hospital discharge (pre or post discharge) from hospital and upon admission or readmission from hospital. Residents are to remain in their rooms and will be placed on contact/droplet precautions until they receive a negative test result. This test can be taken either at hospital or at the home. This is required for both new admissions and returns from hospital and emergency room visits that last over 24 hours
  - Again, under the new orders, high touch cleaning in all common areas is required at a minimum of 2 times per 24-hour period. We are currently, have always-completed high touch cleaning 2 times per day, and will continue this for the time being.
    - o Common areas are not defined by the order but usually include doorknobs, light switches, door handles, handrails, elevator buttons, phones, all dining areas, lounges, Nursing stations, call bells, remote controls, etc.
    - o For resident rooms when you are finished your visit, please complete your own high touch cleaning. If supplies are not available in the resident's room, please ask someone for them and they will be provided
  - Residents are still allowed to go out of the building for outings if they desire but must abide by any current public health orders for the community and are not required to be screened upon re-entry but all residents continue to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms daily. We again ask though that residents be taken out into the community for essential visits only. Walks around the property if the residents always welcome the weather permits.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact me at 780-469-9606.

Thank you once again.

Manju George,  
DOC

Charlotte McFadden  
CEO