

# Covid-19 Visitor Policy

## **REFERENCES: including but not limited to:**

**Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order #37-2021 (July 13, 2021)**

**amended by CMOH Order 49-2021 (October 20, 2021)**

***Alberta Supportive Living Accommodation Standards***

***Alberta Continuing Care Health Service Standards***

***AHS Health & Safety Information Guide for Adult Care Facilities – Environmental Public Health***

***AHS Guidelines for COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention, Control & Management in Congregate Living Sites***

***AHS Guidelines for Outbreak Prevention, Management & Control in Supportive Living & Home Living Sites***

***Alberta Public Health Disease Management Guidelines***

**NOTE: Where the term "resident" is used, it shall also mean legal alternate decision maker.**

Covid-19 risk to residents has reduced due to vaccinations, however for health or other reasons, not all residents or persons on our sites is vaccinated. Therefore, we ask that respect be given to the risk that is present from Covid-19 and its variants on those not vaccinated.

As of July 13, 2021, Covid-19 CMOH Order 16-2021 guiding visitation in our lodge and supportive living facilities was rescinded. Therefore, each housing management body/operator, such as Smoky Lake Foundation (Foundation), must follow all other Alberta Health (AH) and Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidance, standards and legislation surrounding Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) to which the Foundation is already bound.

There are no longer limitations on who a resident may have visit them, with the resident's permission of course. Visitors or residents must pre-arrange their visits wherever possible. There are some remaining imperatives to follow under CMOH Order 37-2021 as amended. The Foundation will do all that it can to accommodate visits without limitation. To arrange a visit please call (Bar-V-Nook) 780-656-4217, Extension 4010 and (Vilna Lodge) 780-636-3545.

We want to hear from you! Please advise the site manager at any time if there is a concern or suggestion. We will do our best to initiate change based on input from residents and family.

## **SCREENING:**

- All staff, students, service providers, volunteers must be actively screened prior to the start of each worksite shift.
- All visiting persons entering the site must be actively screened at entry to the site.
- Residents who live within the facility do not require screening.
- Emergency response teams (Police, Fire, Ambulance) must not be stopped to be screened prior to entering the facility or worksite.
- Temperature check is no longer required but can be done on request if desired.
- *Active* Screening involves:
  - Satisfactory COVID-19 screening using Alberta Health Daily Checklist (as appropriate for children under 18; or for adults 18 and older)
  - Screening may be completed electronically (AHS staff) or on paper. This can be completed prior to arrival at your worksite but must be confirmed by the screener prior to entry.
- If a staff member, service provider, volunteer, student or visiting person feels ill or develops any symptoms of COVID-19 while on site, they must leave their mask on, immediately notify their site contact for escort and leave the site.

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- Vaccination status will matter for residents and may also for the Foundation in future. If one does not wish to volunteer vaccination status if asked, the Foundation will consider a person non-vaccinated. In any case, the information is held as confidential.

Smoky Lake Foundation wishes to ensure that all people in our buildings remain safe and healthy. It is of primary importance that the same significance be recognized by the residents, staff and visitors.

During the remaining period that Covid-19 CMOH Orders and/or any other policy or legislation govern our continuing care sites (lodge and designated supportive living), and as of October 20, 2021 the following shall apply:

## CONTINUOUS MASKING:

- ***Indoors***, a “common area” is defined as any area except a resident’s private room, or a space limited only to staff. *Any person that is not a resident of that site will continuously mask while in Smoky Lake Foundation buildings, including resident suites, until further notice*
- All staff, service providers, contractors and volunteers must wear a surgical/procedure mask continuously, in any areas of the site - except when working alone in an office, where a barrier is in place or while in areas designated for staff to take their breaks. As of October 29, 2021 all staff, service providers, contractors and volunteers must be vaccinated with 2 Covid-19 shots.
- If staff are providing care to a resident with communication challenges where a mask would inhibit care being provided, discretion may be given in circumstances that are deemed appropriate to use alternate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for example fully vaccinated staff using a face shield instead of a mask. Approval for this alternate PPE will be *with the express authorization of the Foundation for their staff, and of AHS for theirs.*
- Visiting persons must wear a surgical/procedure mask in all indoor areas of the building.
- A visitor is required to be feeling well and not experiencing symptoms of illness to visit a resident or enter the premises.
- ***Outdoors***, continuous masking is always recommended, but is no longer required.

**A SITE RISK TOLERANCE ASSESSMENT** as it relates to visiting is no longer required. However, should a site enter an illness outbreak, AH and AHS Guidance, Standards or Orders will supersede any Foundation policy.

## SAFE VISITING:

### ***In addition to Screening and Continuous Masking:***

- Visitors will be given disinfectant wipes and are asked to wipe surfaces they have touched inside the resident room. This is for the safety and wellness of the resident, as daily disinfection is no longer being performed inside private rooms (as per CMOH Order 37-2021 as amended) and once-weekly cleaning has resumed.
- Visitors will be escorted to and from their visit with a resident by a Foundation staff member (usually the Greeter) and asked to touch nothing on the way. *We ask that visitors remain in the resident’s private*

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*suite for the duration of the visit at this time, unless escorted by a Greeter or staff member. Please call 780-656-4217, Ext 4010 to contact the greeter who will come to escort the visitor.*

- At this time, no instance of a visitor unmasking inside is permitted except as per CMOH Order 37-2021 as amended. If a visitor and a resident wish to dine together, this can be arranged for within the private resident suite, minimum distance of 2m must be maintained.
- Visitors are to follow all site policies and public health measures.
- Visitors MUST be feeling well on the date and time of the visit.
- All persons are asked to perform hand hygiene often (hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer).

**CHILDREN** (quoted directly from Government of Alberta Q&A, <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-faq-operational-outbreak-standards-cmoh-36-2021-and-37-2021.pdf>)

Recognizing that children under 12 have not yet been able to receive COVID-19 vaccine, accompanying adults and those residents receiving these visitors are encouraged to remain vigilant in their own assessment of risk and conduct themselves appropriately.

- Children who are infected with COVID-19 can have very mild symptoms or have no symptoms at all.
- It is imperative that as part of the symptom screening, children and parents are extremely diligent in identifying any possible symptoms the child may have and not bring the child into the facility if they are symptomatic.
- It is strongly recommended that visiting persons who have not yet been fully vaccinated (including children between 2 and 12) continue wearing their mask in resident private suites. Regardless of vaccination status, there is still a risk to residents.

## VISITOR MATERIALS

Visitors will receive information when they enter the building for an indoor visit. Review of the information is important for everyone's safety. *Questions are welcome!*

The following will be provided to you:

- Information regarding safe visits, including this document if required.
- A surgical/procedure mask.
- Visitors are encouraged to review posters detailing the proper donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE) This provides the information necessary for putting on and taking off PPE.

## CONCERNS RESOLUTION

- If you have a concern about visiting guidelines, please speak to the General Manager. If your concern cannot be resolved, the issue will be taken/brought to the CAO who shall fairly and reasonably consider all concerns and a conclusion will be determined.

## VISITING DURING PALLIATIVE TIMES

- Smoky Lake Foundation will accommodate family and friends in any way possible during the end of life of a loved one. Please ask the General Manager if you have questions.