

Covid-19 Visitor Policy

AS AT MARCH 21, 2022

REFERENCES: including but not limited to:

Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order #6-2022 (February 9, 2022)

Order 02-2022 As amended- Isolation requirements and critical work exception

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 not all residents at our sites are vaccinated. Therefore, we ask that respect be given to the risk that is present from Covid-19 to those not vaccinated. The highest risk is to our vulnerable residents due to age and health conditions.

Visitors or residents must pre-arrange visits when possible and follow all rules under CMOH Orders.

To arrange visits call (Bar-V-Nook) 780-656-4217, Ext. 4010 and (Vilna Lodge) 780-636-3545.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health encourages a visiting policy driven by the wishes of residents and their families (CMOH Order 6-2022, Pg 10). A survey was taken of resident and family opinions to create further policy. All residents and their contact (family/friend) were given the opportunity to state their opinion.

At Bar-V-Nook Manor and DSL, 42 resident responses, 38 (90.5%) were in favour of requiring full vaccination of visitors. Of 57 family respondents, 48 (84.2%) were also in favour. Approximately 95% of residents are vaccinated and boosted.

At Vilna Lodge and DSL 99% of residents were in favour of requiring full vaccination of visitors (99% of residents are also vaccinated). Vilna Lodge received no written response to the question from family representatives.

The Foundation's Visiting Policy reflects the wishes of the resident and family majority for resident visits (and as per Order 6-2022). Beginning December 1, 2021, and until further notice, when entering the building, resident visitors will be required to verify their vaccination status. If not fully vaccinated (regardless of reason), the resident visitor must show proof of a negative privately sourced Covid-19 rapid antigen test result, dated no longer than 72 hours prior to the visit. Pharmacies in our region provide this service. Queries or concerns regarding this policy can be brought to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for clarification and information.

At this time, continuous masking or 2m distance (eating or drinking) is required in the resident's private suite (CMOH Order 6-2022).

As of November 30, 2021 all Foundation staff who work at Smoky Lake Foundation facilities are fully vaccinated.

ABSOLUTELY NO HARASSMENT OR BULLYING WILL BE TOLERATED FROM ANYONE AT ANY TIME.

ONE EXCEPTION EXISTS TO THE RESIDENT VISITOR REQUIREMENTS: If the resident has been determined to be at end of life, this policy is relaxed significantly – vaccine will not be required of the visitor, but full masking is required within the building, including the resident's suite, at all times. Please contact Management for any further or changing restrictions. We will, of course, do everything within our ability to accommodate the resident and family.

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 needs of residents and family, but cannot forego orders, standards, regulations, or legislation.

Covid-19 Visitor Policy

AS AT MARCH 21, 2022

SCREENING:

- All visitors, staff, students, service providers, and volunteers (including clergy) must be actively screened prior to the start of each worksite shift and/or entry to a site. In addition to health screening, a QR code or 72-hour negative Covid-19 rapid antigen test result (resident visitors only) will be verified at entry.
- Residents who live within the facility do not require entry 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.
- *Active Screening* involves:
 - Satisfactory COVID-19 screening using Alberta Health Daily Checklists and verified by another individual. (AHS staff screening may be completed electronically prior to arrival at the worksite or on paper at the site but must still be confirmed by a screener prior to entry).
- If a visiting person, staff member, service provider, volunteer, or student or any other non-resident on the site 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.
- If someone does not wish to volunteer vaccination status when asked, the Foundation will consider that person non-vaccinated. In any case, any collected information is held as strictly 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 all of those entering.

During the time that Covid-19 CMOH Orders and/or any other policy or legislation govern our continuing care sites (lodge and designated supportive living), the following shall apply:

CONTINUOUS MASKING:

Indoors

Visitors

Visiting persons must wear a surgical/procedure mask in all indoor areas of the building, including resident private suites. Here is an excerpt from CMOH Order 6-2022 (centre of Page 7):

- *Visiting persons must wear a well-fitting surgical/procedure mask OR they may use a well-fitted KN95 facemask or N95 respirator.*
 - *LTC, DSL and hospice operators are required to provide visitors a surgical/procedure mask if visitors do not have their own mask.*
- *And on the Bottom of Page 6, CMOH Order 6-2022*
 - *Visiting persons who are spending time with residents with communication challenges (e.g. hearing concerns) where a mask would inhibit communication, 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.*
 - *Masks can be temporarily removed for the purposes of eating and drinking and be replaced immediately after the food/drink is complete. A distance of two meters should be maintained while the mask is removed.*

Note: Fully immunized persons who are required to wear a mask following their shortened isolation period (staff, licensed supportive living residents and visitors) CANNOT remove their mask for any purpose (including eating and drinking) when outside their own room as per the CMOH Orders.

All non-residents MUST be feeling well and not experiencing ANY symptom of illness to visit a resident or enter the premises.

- All staff, service providers, contractors and volunteers must wear a surgical/procedure mask continuously, in any area of the site - except when working alone in an office, where a barrier is in place

Covid-19 Visitor Policy

AS AT MARCH 21, 2022

or while in areas designated for staff to take their breaks. As of November 30, 2021 all Foundation staff, outside service providers, non-AHS contractors and volunteers must be vaccinated with 2 Covid-19 vaccine shots, including a 14 day period after the 2nd vaccine. Resident visitors must be similarly vaccinated or provide proof of a privately sourced negative Covid-19 rapid antigen test result, dated no longer than 72 hours prior to the visit.

- If staff are providing care to a resident with communication challenges where a mask would inhibit care being provided, CMOH Orders allow the employer discretion to 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, only momentarily. Approval for this alternate PPE will be with the express prior authorization of the Foundation for their staff, and of AHS for theirs.
- **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 Proof of Full Vaccination or Covid-19 Test, Screening and Continuous Masking:

- Visitors will be given disinfectant wipes and asked to wipe surfaces they touched in 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 6-2022) and once-weekly suite cleaning has resumed.
- Visitors will be escorted to and from their destination by a Foundation staff member (usually the Greeter) and asked to touch nothing on the way. *Visitors must remain in the resident's private 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 (Bar-V-Nook) and 780-636-3545 (Vilna Lodge/Cottage) to contact the greeter who will come to escort the visitor.
- At this time, visitor must remain masked at all times within the building, except as per CMOH Order 6-2022 (while eating or drinking at a distance of 2m). If a visitor and a resident wish to dine together, this can be arranged – within the private resident suite – minimum distance of 2m must be maintained and the mask replaced immediately after.
- 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

Recognizing that children under 12 are not yet able to show full COVID-19 vaccination status, accompanying vaccinated or tested adults and residents receiving these visitors are encouraged to remain extremely vigilant in their assessment of risk and conduct themselves appropriately. Resident masking is always suggested when receiving visitors.

- Children infected with COVID-19 can have very mild symptoms or have no symptoms at all.
- As part of the symptom screening, children and parents must be extremely diligent in identifying any possible symptoms the child may have and not bring the child into the facility if they are symptomatic.
- All visiting persons (including children) must continue wearing their mask in resident private suites (except as allowed herein). Regardless of vaccination status, there is still a risk to residents.

VISITOR MATERIALS

Covid-19 Visitor Policy

AS AT MARCH 21, 2022

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 posted information 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 END-OF-LIFE 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.

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