

March 17, 2020

AR 169066

To: Long-term care and licensed supportive living sites

Re: **COVID-19 Update - Visitors**

As you are likely aware, Alberta is moving forward with more aggressive measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. In order to ensure a safe and secure environment for residents of long-term care and licensed supportive living facilities, **only essential visitors will be allowed** until further notice. We will reevaluate this measure in the coming weeks and provide updates as necessary.

Alberta Health is identifying essential visitors as those providing care and companionship services necessary for the well-being of the resident, and visitors attending to a resident who is dying. All essential visitors should be actively screened into these settings. The attached tool has been developed by Alberta Health Services to assist you in operationalizing this recommendation. Those who answer 'yes' to any of the screening questions in the tool should not be permitted to enter. No other visitors should be permitted to enter these premises, instead they should be asked to keep in touch with their loved ones by phone or other technologies as available.

The safety and well-being of vulnerable residents is our top priority. We will continue to monitor this situation closely and ensure that we are prepared.

Yours sincerely,



Deena Hinshaw, BSc, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCP  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Enclosure