

October 29, 2020

Exemption Request - Order 10-2020 - Single Site Exemption

Whereas the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

Whereas the investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta.

Whereas under section 29(2)(b)(i) of the *Public Health Act*, the CMOH may make an order pursuant to her authority under s. 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*.

Further to the above, the CMOH, pursuant to her authority under s. 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, made Record of Decision – CMOH Order 10-2020 on April 10, 2020, which was subsequently amended by Record of Decision – CMOH Order 12-2020 on April 28, 2020 and by Record of Decision – CMOH Order 23-2020 on May 25, 2020, which was subsequently amended by Record of Decision – CMOH Order 32-2020 which came into effect on September 17, 2020 (the Order) to suppress COVID-19 in those who may have already been infected with COVID-19; protect those who have not already been exposed to COVID-19; break the chain of transmission and prevent the spread of COVID-19; and remove the source of infection.

Pursuant to Part 1 - Section 1 of the Order, the operators and any contractors operating within a health care facility must restrict the movement of staff members among health care facilities by ensuring that each staff member works in only one health care facility.

Pursuant to the “Deployment of Staff and Resources” standards in Part 2 of the Order, in the case of a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak, operators must authorize and deploy additional resources to manage the outbreak, as needed, to provide safe resident care and services as well as a safe workplace for staff.

Pursuant to Part 2 – Section 9(a) of the Order, all operators of a health care facility located in the Province of Alberta must comply with the operational and outbreak standards attached as Appendix A to the same.

Pursuant to Part 1 - Section 8, the CMOH may exempt in writing an operator, contractor, or staff member of a health care facility from the application of Part 1 of the Order on a case-by-case basis.

Pursuant to Part 2 – Section 13 of the Order, an operator of a health care facility may be exempted from the application of Part 2 of the Order on a case-by-case basis.

The Office of CMOH has received multiple requests from AHS Medical Officers of Health and AHS Continuing Care Leadership requesting that single site exemptions be issued where sites are experiencing staffing constraints due to the quarantine or isolation of a significant proportion of their staff members. These requests ask that health care facilities experiencing critical staffing constraints be exempt from the Order, specifically the application of Part 1 – Section 1 and from the “Staff Working at Single Facility” standards set out in Part 2 of the Order

These exemption requests received by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health from the impacted health care facility, or through the AHS MOH or the AHS Continuing Care Zone Executive Leadership, are being evaluated through an internal validation and approval process which includes:

- Validation of the incoming request by the Compliance and Monitoring Branch and the Continuing Care Branch which is coordinated by a designated Alberta Health team member (Designated Team Member);
- Recommendation is sent to CMOH via email by the Designated Team Member;
- CMOH approval or denial is sent to the Designated Team Member and Alberta Health program areas via email;
- Approved site added to the Schedule A by the Designated Team Member; and
- Requestor and the impacted health care facility are advised as to outcome of their request for a single site exemption by the Designated Team Member.

The categories of staff that are being asked to be redeployed include: RNs, LPNs, HCAs and staff from support services including nutrition food services and environmental services. The health care facilities that are requesting site exemptions are also being required to put in place measures to track all shared employees who work at more than one health care facility (i.e. names, dates, times, designation of staff) as a condition for a site exemption.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 8 of the Order, I am satisfied that the facilities that have received written approval from the CMOH, and as identified in Schedule A, consisting of health care facilities that have been validated to have critical staffing constraints due to quarantine and isolation of their employees are exempt from Part 1 of the Order and the “Staff Working at Single Facility” standards set out in Part 2 of the Order subject to the following conditions:

- I. Subject to paragraphs II to V staff members from operators, contractors or agencies identified in Schedule A, as may be updated from time to time, may be redeployed where the operator, contractor or agency as the case may be has received written approval from the CMOH to redeploy its staff for the purpose of providing services and support care delivery at a health care facility impacted by critical staffing constraints due to isolation and quarantine of their employees (Impacted Facility) for a set period of time are exempt from Part 1 of the Order and the “Staff Working at Single Facility” standards set out in Part 2 of the Order;
- II. Specified staff members approved by the local AHS MOH or Zone Continuing Care Executive Director or designate are permitted to work at the Impacted Facility in

addition to their regular health care facility to ensure that safe and quality care continues to be provided at the Impacted Facility.

- III. Health care facility operators, contractors, agencies and their staff members who are subject to this exemption are to make every possible effort to have staff members continue to work at only one health care facility;
- IV. Health care facility operators, contractors, agencies and their staff members who are subject to this exemption are to make every possible effort to assign staff (cohort), to the greatest extent possible, to either:
 - Exclusively provide care/service for residents who are not in quarantine or isolation, or
 - Exclusively provide care/service for residents who are in quarantine or isolation; and
- V. The Impacted Facility shall submit reports similar to the example in Schedule B, at least weekly after this exemption comes into effect, to Alberta Health - Attention: Executive Director of the Continuing Care Branch and the Executive Director Compliance and Monitoring that shall document and identify the efforts being made by that facility to have staff members continue to work at only one health care facility.

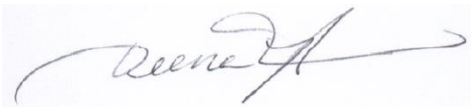
Although operators, contractors and staff members described in paragraph 1 are exempt from Part 1 of the Order and from the “Staff Working at Single Facility” standards set out in Part 2 of the Order, all persons providing or responsible for services to the Albertans in these health care facilities must promote appropriate hygiene, distancing of 2 metres from other people where possible, and other measures identified by public health authorities to protect these persons and Albertans from further transmission of COVID-19.

The exemption provided by this letter may be terminated or modified by the CMOH in writing without notice at any time and for any reason as determined by the CMOH.

This exemption comes into effect on the date the facility is listed in Schedule A and continues for six weeks at which time facilities must request an extension from CMOH.

We trust this is satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deena Hinshaw", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

Schedule A

ISSUE DATE (or decision date)	DATE OF EXPIRY (or status)	FULL SITE OR SELECT STAFF	ORGANIZATION/ SITE	Location
November 4, 2020	December 16, 2020	Full Site	Wing Kei Crescent Heights	1212 Centre St NE, Calgary, AB T2E 2R4
November 4, 2020	December 16, 2020	Full Site	Covenant Care Chateau Vitaline	5018 52 Avenue Beaumont, Alberta, T4X 1P3
November 3, 2020	December 15, 2020	Full Site	Park Place Seniors Living's Villa Marguerite	9810 165 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5P 3S7
November 1, 2020	December 14, 2020	Full Site	Revera Mount Royal	1813 9 St SW, Calgary, AB T2T 3C2
October 30, 2020	December 11, 2020	Full site	All Seniors Care Laurel Heights	3110 22 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6T 0R2
October 30, 2020	December 11, 2020	Full site	All Seniors Care St. Albert Retirement Residence	125 Everitt Dr, St. Albert, AB T8N 7R9
October 29, 2020	December 10, 2020	Full site	Good Samaritan Society (GSS) Pembina Village	5225 – 50 Street Evansburg, AB T0E 0T0
October 29, 2020	December 10, 2020	Full site	Revera Jasper Place Continuing Care Centre	8903 168 St NW, Edmonton, AB T5R 2V6
October 29, 2020	December 10, 2020	Full site	Revera South Terrace	5905 112 St NW, Edmonton, AB T6H 3J4

Schedule B

Where reports on shared employees are submitted the supporting documentation should include the occupation of the individual, the home sites for staff who have been redeployed to work at an exempt site. Indicate clearly any shared staff who have been approved to work at multiple sites at the same time.

Include the date of the report and to whom the exemption to CMOH Order 10-2020 (Single Site Staffing) applies on that given date*:

(Impacted Health Care Facility Name)						
# Staff	Employer	Occupation	Home Site	Working at Both Sites	Redeployment	
					Start Date	End Date
	Samples - agency, operator or AHS	Eg, HCA, LPN, RN, manager, etc.	Eg, Agency, operator's other location, corporate office, AHS office.	Yes or No	2020-Oct-26	(Tentative or Actual)
1	Agency	RN	Agency	Yes	2020-Oct-26	Actual 2020-Oct-28
2	LTC Operator	LPN	LTC Operator – include site	No	2020-Oct-26	Tentative 2020-Nov-23

Target date for site to fully return to single site: _____