

August 4, 2020



Dear Good Samaritan residents and families,

As you're aware, the provincial government recently announced changes to begin to allow visitors into long-term care and supportive living homes across Alberta. The leadership teams at our care homes have been diligently working to ensure that safety plans and measures are in place and are now prepared to allow designated family/support and other visitors at our care homes. Temporary limitations may still occur in situations where the threat of COVID-19 is imminent. This will be decided on in consultation with Public Health, residents and families. The previously allowed essential and compassionate care visits will also continue.

Visiting restrictions are as follows:

- Indoor access for designated family/support person(s):
 - Residents may name up to two individuals for this role.
 - The two may choose to come together, or alternately they can each come by themselves.

- Access to visitors in extenuating circumstances:
 - End of life (last 4-6 weeks, except in the case of hospice)
 - Change in health status (due to medical/social/spiritual crisis)
 - Pressing circumstances (including financial or legal matters, family crisis).
 - The amount of people that can visit at any one time in these circumstances is dependent on space and if they are all from the same household.

- Outdoor visits in designated spaces:
 - Up to 5 individuals, including the resident, are permitted if feasible.

- Where desired and if determined safe, indoor social visits with visitors in designated indoor spaces.
 - This will be determined in consultation with residents and families and be based off of the risk tolerance assessment that is completed by the leadership team at the home. Please speak to the site manager at your care home if you would like more information.

Below is a summary of the different types of visitation from the Chief Medical Officer of Health's [Order 29-2020](#). Please speak to the site manager, as some visitation will be dependent on what visiting spaces are available and what the risk tolerance is for that care home.

Indoor Location	Requirements
Resident Room (private rooms)	<p><u>At Minimum</u> Up to two people at one time (not including resident):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designated Family/Support Person(s); and/or ○ Visitor(s) in change in health status or pressing circumstance situations <p>Up to 3 people at one time in <u>end of life</u> circumstances, unless all persons are from the same household in which case there is <u>no maximum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designated Family/Support Person(s); and/or ○ Visitor(s) <p><u>Where permitted, based on site's risk tolerance assessment</u> Social visits, up to two people at one time (not including resident); designated family/support person not required</p>
Resident Room (semi- private rooms)	<p>Same as private rooms, but physical distancing from the other resident(s) must be maintained</p> <p>If this cannot be maintained, the operator must do their best to make accommodations to support the residents (e.g. temporary relocation of resident, etc.)</p>
Shared Care Area (where direct care is provided)	<p><u>At minimum</u> One designated family/support person at a time only.</p>
Designated Indoor Spaces (not care areas)	<p><u>Where permitted, based on site's risk tolerance assessment</u> Limited to a maximum of 3 people (including the resident) per grouping, unless the site can safely accommodate more</p>
Designated Outdoor Spaces	<p><u>At minimum</u> Up to five people (including the resident) per grouping if physical distancing can be maintained</p>

It is imperative that if you are planning on visiting one of our homes that you:

- understand the risk of exposure to COVID-19 (for yourself and others);
- follow all related care home policies and public health measures in place, and
- remain vigilant in protecting yourself and others both while at the care home and away.
- self assess at home for risk of exposure to COVID and respond honestly on the questionnaire when being screened.

We continue to encourage families and friends to stay in touch with residents virtually. If you would like more information, please reach out to the care home to learn more about the different ways you can connect. Our well wishes tool is also available to you on our website (www.gss.org/well-wishes) where loved ones can send a message and photos to those in our care.

For your information and review, I have attached the Safe Visiting Practices document, a copy of the COVID-19 Visitation Process for the care home, and a visiting guide. Please contact the care home directly if you have any questions or concerns and to provide feedback on the current visitation process. It is important that we hear from you to help us inform visitation decisions moving forward.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Bonnici".

Michelle Bonnici B.A. LL.M
Interim President and CEO