



January 26, 2021

Dear Good Samaritan Society families and residents,

I wanted to reach out to you to provide you with an update on our current COVID-19 response.

While we are starting to see case numbers lower across the province, which is good news, indoor social visits remain on hold for all of our care homes. Of course, any designated family or support visitors may continue to visit with their respective resident indoors, however out of an abundance of caution we ask that you only do so if necessary to the resident's well-being. We also kindly ask that designated visitors continue to contact the care home to schedule their visits in advance so we can limit the number of people in the care home at any one time. Any designated visitor will be required to wear a mask upon arrival, and one will be provided to you. Please keep in mind that there may be additional personal protective equipment that must be worn for any of our care homes currently on investigative or confirmed outbreak status.

As you know, the provincial government has recently loosened some restrictions, but that does not include social gatherings. For this reason, residents should not be visiting with anyone that is not one of their two designated family or support visitors. As well, if a designated family or support person does not live alone, residents should not be visiting their household per the public health orders currently in place. We continue to encourage residents not to leave the care home unless essential. If a resident or their designated family or support person chooses to have the resident leave the care home, regardless of their time away, the resident will be required to undergo a screening protocol upon return, including a risk assessment. The risk assessment will determine if there are additional protocols that will need to be put in place to keep those we care for and our employees safe (e.g. isolation).

I know that it is not easy being unable to see your loved ones, but on behalf of our employees I want to sincerely thank you for being understanding as we implement the protocols necessary to keep everyone as safe as possible. I encourage you to reach out to the care home to arrange virtual visits or go to our website (www.gss.org/well-wishes) to send messages and photos to anyone in our care. The well wishes have been particularly well received, and I have heard that some families even have binders made up for their loved ones to hold all of the messages and photos being sent in.

I am happy to report that those residents who were eligible (e.g. not ill) and that consented have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at all of our care homes. As well, some of our employees have also had the opportunity to be immunized. I can tell you that this has created a powerful sense of hope at the care homes as this critical step in the fight against COVID-19 has taken place. While we know that there are vaccine shortages, we are working with Alberta Health Services (AHS) to arrange for the second dose for residents in the required timeframe. We understand from AHS that vaccine has been set aside to do this.

Finally, we continue to request that should any visitor learn they have COVID-19, or if you become ill with any COVID-19 symptoms within 48 hours of visiting the care home, that you notify local management right away. If you have any questions or concerns, please continue to reach out to your site manager, or email goodsaminfo@gss.org.

Again, thank you for your patience, support and understanding as we have gone through these last eleven months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Fielding', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Fielding
Vice President of Operations, Quality, and Clinical Supports