

COVID-19 Guidance

Resident Outings and Leave of Absence for Congregate Living Sites

Particularly for older individuals and those with respiratory, cardiac or multiple chronic conditions, the risks of more severe symptoms and death from COVID-19 are greater. Special steps must be taken to prevent disease transmission when considering the movement of clients or residents, visitors and staff into and within the facilities. In addition, the ability to isolate is limited, which makes it more important that we do all that we can to prevent COVID-19 from being introduced into a residential facility.

For the safety of all individuals at a site, including the residents, staff and essential workers, the following principles apply when residents choose to leave on an outing or opt to leave the site to receive care at an alternate location.

Resident Outings

- Residents who are not required to isolate/quarantine are encouraged (but not required) to stay on the facility's property, except in the case of necessity. Perception of necessity may vary, but when an outing is solely for the purposes of maintaining physical or psychological health, safety/security, or wellbeing, it is considered a necessity. The resident or alternate decision maker solely makes the determination of what is necessary for them.
 - It is recommended that residents not participate in unnecessary outings however, they may still choose to do so.
- Should a resident choose to go out, for any purpose, the operator must communicate best practices to the resident (or alternate decision maker) for safe outings including:
 - Maintain physical distancing of two (2) metres;
 - Wear a mask at all times including consideration of any municipal masking bylaws;
 - Ensure safe transportation;
 - Maintain good hand hygiene;
 - Discuss and explain the Risk of Unknown Exposure;
 - Inform the resident that they are subject to Health Assessment Screening upon re-entry; and
 - Upon return from same day outing, the resident is expected to have an open discussion with the operator about risk of unknown exposure during the outing and collectively determine the required safety precaution.
- Residents who do not follow Resident Outing requirements may be asked to follow additional safety precautions, depending on the type of activity they engaged in.

Additional information can be found on the [Government of Alberta's Congregate Care webpage](#).

Temporary Resident Relocation

In some circumstances, residents and families may opt for a resident to leave a site and for the resident to receive care in another location. In these circumstances, the following principles will apply:

- Decisions to relocate a resident from a site must be made in conjunction with the client, physician, care team, at-home support, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and with full appreciation of the needs of the resident that must be met for safe care to be provided;
- Families will need to be prepared to provide care to the residents for an indefinite period. Home care will not necessarily be available to support an individual, depending on circumstances and resources ([refer to “Questions to Consider when Moving a Family Member from a Care Setting during COVID-19”](#)); and
- Given capacity and staffing considerations, there is no guarantee that the site will be able to accept a resident to return including but not limited to situations where the bed has been surrendered; the site is on outbreak and the resident is not ill; or staffing is critically low and the site is unable to manage the care at the time. In these circumstances, another site may be considered to accommodate the resident if possible.

Prior to returning from any leave of absence, the returning resident will require screening using the [Client Admission/Discharge/Transfer Screening Questionnaire](#)