



February 26, 2021

Dear Good Samaritan families and individuals,

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

We continue to actively advocate with Disability Services and Alberta Health Services to include our Program for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PPDD) individuals and employees as part of the COVID-19 vaccination rollout sooner rather than later.

Over the last month, we have seen a significant drop in the number of COVID-19 outbreaks and active cases we have across the organization. While this is promising news, I can assure you that our employees continue to remain diligent and are following all public health orders to keep everyone safe and healthy.

At this time, we have made a decision as an organization to continue to put indoor social visits on hold for all of our homes. Of course, any designated family or support visitors may continue to visit with their respective individual indoors, however out of an abundance of caution, we ask that you only do so if necessary to the individual's well-being. Designated visitors must continue to contact the Program Manager of the home to determine necessity of visit and if determined necessary an appropriate time will be scheduled to visit the home. Any designated visitor will also be required to wear a mask upon arrival, and one will be provided to you. Please keep in mind that additional personal protective equipment will need to be worn by designated visitors should a home go on outbreak.

I encourage you to continue to reach out to the 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.

As you know, the provincial government has recently loosened some restrictions, but that does not include indoor social gatherings at this time. For this reason, individuals should not be visiting with anyone that is not one of their two designated family or support visitors indoors. However, I do recognize that smaller gatherings outside are allowed with proper precautions in place.

We continue to encourage individuals not to leave the home unless essential. If an individual or their designated family or support person chooses to have them leave the care home, regardless of their time away, the individual will be required to undergo a screening protocol upon return, including a risk assessment. The risk assessment will determine if additional protocols will need to be put in place to keep those we care for and our employees' safe (e.g. isolation). Under the current public health orders, if a designated family or support person does not live alone, individuals should not be visiting their household.

Finally, to limit the risk of exposure as much as possible, we are also requesting that if visitors learn they have COVID-19 or become ill within 48 hours of visiting the home, they notify management right away. If you have any questions or concerns, please continue to reach out to your site manager or email goodsaminfo@gss.org.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. Your support has meant a lot to our employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Fielding". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the beginning.

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