



March 30, 2021

Dear Good Samaritan Society families and residents,

This month marked a milestone for all of us in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic as we reached one year since this all began. A time to reflect on those who are no longer with us and the challenges that we have faced together. There is hope for the future however as we see the continued COVID-19 vaccine rollout and the positive impact it is having on those we care for

COVID-19 Vaccination

I am happy to report that of our eligible residents and employees who have been vaccinated, have not had any significant side effects experienced at this time. We encourage everyone who is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine. If you would like to learn more about the different phases, please visit the Government of Alberta [website](#). We've also posted some videos on our social media (@goodsamaritanCA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)) of some of our residents explaining why it was important for them to be vaccinated. I encourage you to check them out

Visitation

As we see variant COVID-19 cases rising in the communities around us, at this time, our Emergency Operations Center has made the decision that we will not be having indoor social visits at our care homes. Designated family and support visits can continue to occur indoors by booking your visit in advance. We have attached brochures to this letter that explain who designated visitors are and the risk of visitation that everyone needs to be aware of. Compassionate care visits will continue as normal.

We know that this is frustrating for many of you, but I assure you we are following the public health orders and processes to keep those we care for, our employees and our communities' safe. As we continue to assess our risk tolerance, visitation restrictions will continue to be a standing topic of our resident and family council meetings moving forward. I strongly encourage you to attend these meetings if you are able. If you would like to learn more, please speak to your site manager.

As the weather warms up, more of our care homes will be able to start up outdoor social visits again, and I know that many people are looking forward to that. As a friendly reminder, once outdoor social visits begin again at your location, there are still public health protocols in place that need to be followed. They are as follows:

- People will need to be masked for outdoor social visits if physical distance is not able to be maintained. We will provide you with a procedure mask when you visit as cloth masks are not preferred.
- Outdoor visits can have up to five people (including the resident), if the visiting space can safely accommodate that many people. This will be dependent on the space available at each care home.

Once the weather permits, outdoor visits will need to be scheduled in advance with the care home so that we can ensure the various requests are coordinated as these are shared visiting spaces.

I also want to remind you that there is the ability to schedule virtual visits with the care home, and you can also send messages and photos through our website by visiting www.gss.org/well-wishes.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

As a friendly reminder, we will provide visitors with the appropriate PPE necessary depending on the situation. At all times, this will include a procedure mask, but there may be instances where additional PPE (e.g. gowns, gloves, eye protection) is required. For example, if you are a designated family/support visitor or compassionate care visitor and the care home is on a COVID-19 outbreak. In that case, our employees will advise you how to put the PPE on properly and to take it off safely. If you're ever not sure about how to put on the required PPE, please do not hesitate to ask an employee. We are happy to help.

Communication

In order to ensure that everyone is kept up to date, letters such as this one are posted on our website (<https://gss.org/preparations-for-covid-19/>), and we strongly encourage residents and their primary contacts/legal health representatives to share them with other loved ones who may not receive them directly. If a care home goes on a COVID-19 outbreak, residents and primary contacts/legal health representatives will receive weekly letters to keep them updated on the situation. These letters are also posted on our [website](#) along with all active outbreaks and case numbers.

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,



Edythe Andison
Director of Quality and Clinical Supports
Interim EOC Incident Commander