



May 31, 2021

Dear Good Samaritan individuals and families,

With the announcement last week of the roadmap for the provincial re-opening plan, I am sure you are getting excited for things to get back to normal like us. It has been a long 15 months, and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your patience as we have dealt with the many changes that have come our way.

While we are not quite back to the way things were, there is a profound feeling of hope as vaccination rates climb and the number of outbreaks and their severity declines. We all must continue to remain diligent, follow public health orders, and get vaccinated if you are medically able. If you are a loved one of an individual in our care, please visit the [Alberta Health Services website](#) or call 811 to learn more about how to book your vaccination and help us get back to normal faster.

Visitation

As you know, this month new visitation changes came into effect at all of our homes, and individuals and legal guardians were informed of the visiting plan for each location. Some of our homes have voted to allow indoor social visits, and some have voted not to at this time. Regardless of the decision made, the process will be revisited in a few weeks, and we will call on our individuals and legal guardians to help inform the path forward.

While vaccination offers an additional layer of protection to the individuals in our care, our employees, designated family/support persons, and other visitors, it is imperative that all public health measures continue to be implemented and observed by anyone entering our homes. This includes health assessment screening, continuous masking, hand hygiene, physical distancing and following all other public health orders.

As I noted in my last update to you, each individual can now have four designated family/support persons (DFSP). These are people that the individual (or their legal guardian) have named as being essential to the individual's mental and physical health. Designated family/support persons will not be restricted from accessing the individual(s) they support, except in rare outbreak situations. Alternatively, social visitors are those people who are not designated as DFSP, and their visitation, including the location of visits (e.g. indoor or outdoor), are informed by the decisions of our individuals/legal guardians and outbreak status.

Shared Dining

We know how important meals and dining experiences are to our individual's quality of life, which is why we were pleased to see that all regular dining may resume per the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order 23-2021. Of course, there may be some circumstances (e.g. if a home goes on outbreak) where changes to dining will occur. At this time, following Public Health's direction, family are not able to join the individual for a social mealtime. However, one DFSP per individual may support mealtime and assist with feeding as directed by individual need.

As we learn more about the re-opening plans and what they will mean for our homes, we will continue to keep you informed. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please continue to reach out to your program manager or email goodsaminfo@gss.org.

Sincerely,



Edythe Andison

Vice President and Chief Quality Officer

Good Samaritan Emergency Operations Centre Incident Commander