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Visitation Update

### **Are visitations still permitted at Chinook Village?**

Visits from the Designated Support person(s) will continue for essential visits only. As such, visits will be restricted to 1 Designated Support Person in the resident suite at one time as “social visits” are not permissible for any Albertans in any setting. (Note: Essential visits are permitted for those quality of life and/ or care related activities as appropriate, where staff are unable to provide those due to emergent pandemic impacts.) Please carefully consider the necessity your visits as each visit presents a risk for your loved one and all the residents and staff at Chinook Village. You may leave groceries, flowers, packages at Reception for delivery.

Pre-booking your visit is required as this enables us to manage the number of visitors on site at one time. Avoid disappointment of a declined visit by prebooking.

Screening of all persons entering Chinook Village Supportive or Assisted Living are required and if you have any symptoms, please stay home. It is alarming and heartbreaking to learn of an incident at different site where a visitor tested positive for COVID, knowingly falsified information on the Visitor Screening tool and, visited a senior resident family member. This resulted in unnecessary transmission of the virus to staff and the high-risk residents, which may result in death. This incident is currently being investigated with fines or charges pending.

Visitors must:

- Complete a health screening at Reception.
- Follow all precautions as instructed by staff.
- Continuously wear a mask that covers mouth and nose during visit, including in resident room.
- Not eat or drink in resident room. Food may be left with resident for later consumption.
- Refrain from physical touching.
- Minimize movement throughout the building (yes, you may stop at the mailbox, but not stop and talk with other residents).
- Practice hand hygiene when you enter/exit your loved one’s room as well as when you enter/exit the building.
- Wear the Authorized Visitor person identification.

To accommodate all Essential Visits requests during the holiday season (Dec 25 to Dec 28), Chinook Village will be limiting visitors to 6 people for each morning, afternoon, and evening. Each visit will be restricted to one hour. Avoid disappointment by booking early.

Mornings (max 6 visitors) 10am to 11:00am; 11:00 am to 12 noon

Afternoons (max 6 visitors) 1:00 to 2:00pm; 2:00 to 3:00pm; 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Evenings (max 6 visitors) 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Failure to abide by these guidelines may result in suspension of visits.

## **Can Mom/Dad come to my place for Christmas?**

Our guidance to residents has been to leave the community for essential reasons only, things that cannot be managed by remote communication or another means (e.g.: medical appointments, groceries, etc.). Dr Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health, has repeatedly stated that we (all citizens) need to embrace the full intent and the spirit of the new directives/guidelines and not look for loopholes or ways around the directive.

Based on the Q & A with Dr Hinshaw, that residents should not be going to the homes of others because the other households should not be having any guests (CMOH Order #42 – No indoor or outdoor gatherings in any setting). While there is an exemption for a family member who lives alone, this refers to you and not your loved one as they do not live alone but reside in licensed congregate living. While your loved one may have their own suite, they are part of a large cohort (>15 people) as they have at least one meal per day in congregate dining. (CMOH orders #29 and #32 are applicable to these sites and can be referenced at [alberta.ca](http://alberta.ca).)

Due to the high risk of unknown transmission in our community along a COVID outbreak in Independent living, residents leaving the site fall into the HIGH risk of unknown exposure category. As a precautionary measure, residents who leave the site during the holidays (Dec 24 to Dec 28 inclusive) for any non-essential outing, will be asked to quarantine until Dec 29<sup>th</sup> when a proper Risk of Unknown Exposure assessment can take place. Based on this assessment, quarantine may or may not continue. (Note: This assessment will not occur prior to Dec 29<sup>th</sup> and depending on the number of resident's involved, may continue for a few days. There will be no prior approvals as the assessment can only be done after the event, not before as the details may change.)

Please know, your loved one will not be alone at Christmas. Already, staff hosted a special Christmas meal, in a beautifully decorated dining room, complete with all the door prizes donated by our various contractors. On Christmas day, they will have turkey and all the trimmings, in the company of the other residents here in the Village.

These are difficult times, and these are difficult decisions, but we need to keep in mind, lives are at stake. Please contact Linda Hygard at 403-526-6951 directly if you have any concerns.

*“Private social gathering” is defined as any type of private social function or gathering at which a group of persons come together and move freely around to associate, mix or interact with each other for social purposes rather than remaining seated or station for the duration of the function or gathering (CMOH Order #38, Part 2 #11)*

