

Re: EXEMPTION – ORDER 39-2021 – ISOLATED PERSONS WHO HAVE ADULT DEPENDENTS THAT REQUIRE MEDICAL CARE

Whereas the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

Whereas the investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta.

Whereas under section 29(2)(b)(i) of the Public Health Act, the CMOH may make an order pursuant to her authority under section 29(2.1) of the Public Health Act.

Further to the above, the CMOH, pursuant to her authority under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, made CMOH Order 39-2021 (the Order) identifying steps to prohibit persons from attending any location at any time period and subject to any conditions, any activity that could transmit an infectious agent, as well as any other steps that are necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Pursuant to section 4.1 of the Order the CMOH may exempt a person or classes of persons from the operation of the Order.

In accordance with the above, and pursuant to section 4.1 of the Order, I am satisfied that an exemption should be granted from the requirements of the Order to the following persons upon the following conditions:

Isolated Persons who are required to take dependent adults for scheduled medical care

Where a person is in isolation pursuant to Section 3.1 of the Order and pursuant to an enactment of Alberta and/or a court order is required to arrange or provide for the health care needs of another person who is over the age of 18 years (the dependent adult) and the dependent adult requires medical care that can only be provided in a doctor's office, hospital, or other medical facility and it is not possible that any other person can accompany the dependent adult.

The person is exempt from the provisions of the Order that require isolation to the extent necessary to allow the dependent adult to receive scheduled medical care and upon complying with the following:

- I. Where the person is required to accompany the dependent adult to a pre-arranged medical appointment where the dependent adult is not required to be admitted to hospital the person shall only leave their isolation premises on the

date of the appointment to attend to the doctor's office, hospital, or other medical facility so the adult dependent may receive medical care.

- II. The person shall advise the doctor's office, hospital, or other medical facility as the case may be, that they are in isolation pursuant to the Order and shall follow all instructions provided by the staff of that office or facility concerning accessing the office or facility premises. Upon arriving at the office or facility the person shall immediately wear a mask or other face covering that covers the mouth and nose if they are not already wearing one.
- III. Where provided instructions by 811 or another health care provider the person must comply with all such instructions concerning precautions the person is required to follow to limit the transmission of COVID-19 while travelling to and from the doctor's office, hospital, or other medical facility.
- IV. Where practical, the person shall use private transportation of which they are the sole occupant with the dependent adult and travel directly to and from their isolation premises to the location where the dependent adult is to receive their medical care with no stops in between.
- V. If the person must use shared transportation the person shall, in addition to travelling directly to and from their isolation premises to the critical care facility with no stops in between, also where possible, engage in physical distancing of no less than two (2) meters from other persons, who are not their dependent adult, using the same shared transportation. The person shall also wear a mask or other face covering that covers the mouth and nose when using shared transportation.
- VI. When arriving or departing from the doctor's office, hospital, or other medical facility the person shall obey all directions from medical staff concerning precautions against COVID-19 transmission.
- VII. All other applicable provisions of Order 39-2021 are in effect.

Isolated persons whose dependent adult requires admittance to a hospital or other medical facility

Where a person in isolation pursuant to Section 3.1 of the Order and pursuant to an enactment of Alberta and/or a court order is allowed or required to arrange or provide for the health care needs of another person who is over the age of 18 years (the dependent adult) who must accompany the dependent adult to a hospital or medical facility so that the dependent adult may be admitted for medical care, that person is exempt from the provisions of the Order that require isolation to the extent necessary to accompany or visit the dependent adult at the admitting hospital or medical facility but subject to the conditions set out in this exemption.

- VIII. If the dependent adult needs emergency care that requires their transport by first responders to a hospital or other facility and the person contacts 911 or other first responders for that purpose the person shall advise, whomever they contact, that the person or the dependent adult are in isolation and shall follow all instructions per 911 or first responders concerning limiting the transmission of COVID-19 during the transport of the dependent adult to hospital.
- IX. If the transport of the dependent adult to the admitting hospital does not require the use of a first responder the person shall use private transportation or shared transportation in accordance with the conditions specified in paragraphs (III) to (V) of this exemption.
- X. Where a person is accompanying a dependent adult for the purposes of admitting the dependent adult to a hospital or medical facility the person shall advise the admitting hospital, or medical facility as the case may be that they and/or their dependent adult are in isolation pursuant to the Order.
- XI. The person, whenever on the premises of the hospital or medical facility where the dependent adult has been admitted, shall follow all directions of the medical staff and Medical Officers of Health at the hospital or other medical facility. Such directions may include, but are not limited to, requiring that person to be isolated with the dependent adult while visiting the dependent adult and any other conditions as determined by a Medical Officer of Health.
- XII. For clarity this exemption also applies to permit the person to travel to and from their isolation premises for the purposes of visiting the dependent adult while they are admitted to a hospital or medical facility and for the purposes of transporting those dependent adults to their home upon their discharge.
- XIII. The person when visiting the dependent adult shall travel directly to and from their isolation premises to the hospital or medical facility with no stops in between.
- XIV. Where the person must transport the dependent adult upon their discharge they shall travel directly from their isolation premises to the hospital or medical facility and subsequently to the dependent adult's or the isolation premises as the case may be with no stops in between.
- XV. When using shared transportation to travel to and from the hospital or medical facility where the dependent adult is admitted the person shall also wear a mask or other face covering that covers the mouth and nose.
- XVI. All other applicable provisions of Order 39-2021 are in effect.

The exemption may be terminated or modified by the CMOH in writing without notice and for any reason as determined by the CMOH.

This exemption comes into effect on July 29, 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deena Hinshaw", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deena Hinshaw, BSc, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCP
Chief Medical Officer of Health