

November 2, 2020

Section 10 Exemption to Section 3 - Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020 – COVID-19 Travel Testing Pilot

The Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), pursuant to her authority under s. 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, made CMOH Orders 05-2020 amended by Order 28-2020 (the Order) identifying steps to prohibit persons from attending any location for any time period and subject to any conditions, any activity that could transmit an infectious agent as well as any other steps to lessen the impact to public health.

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Order the CMOH may, notwithstanding anything else in the Order, exempt in writing persons or classes of persons from the Order on whatever terms are appropriate.

The CMOH on her own authority under the Order has determined, based on discussions with public health officials of the Government of Canada and public health officials of the Province of Alberta, that if a temporary voluntary program, the Alberta COVID-19 Border Testing Pilot Program (the Pilot), is implemented for individuals entering Alberta directly from outside of Canada at select border crossings or airports, who immediately upon entering Alberta agree to be tested and quarantine until they receive a negative result and comply with all the other terms and conditions of the Pilot, then those individuals should be exempt from quarantine under Section 3(a) of the Order.

The CMOH has also further determined that the exemption from Section 3(a) of Order 05-2020 for persons accepted into the Pilot should not permit those persons to subsequently avoid their obligations under the Pilot or Section 3(a) of Order 05-2020 by invoking a previous exemption whose terms are less onerous than those under the Pilot. If a person in these circumstances chooses not to follow the terms of the Pilot the person will be required to quarantine as per Section 3(a) of Order 05-2020, with no ability to take advantage of any other applicable exemptions from Quarantine (except those exemptions that apply to urgent health care related reasons), and face any other applicable sanction for leaving quarantine contrary to Section 3(a) of Order 05-2020.

In accordance with the above and pursuant to Section 10 of the Order, I am satisfied that an exemption be granted from the requirements set out in Section 3 of Order 05-2020 as amended by Order 28-2020 for the following persons upon the following conditions:

- I. Subject to the conditions in paragraph II to IX persons and their dependents who are together directly entering into Alberta from outside of Canada at select land border crossing and airports as per the below requirements of eligible candidates for the Pilot and are accepted into the Pilot and comply with all the conditions are exempt from Section 3(a) of Order 05-2020 as amended by Order 28-2020. Eligible and ineligible candidates are defined as:
 - Eligible candidates returning from international travel:
 - a. returning Canadian citizens,
 - b. permanent residents,
 - c. foreign nationals currently permitted entry into Canada (for example, immediate and extended family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents), or
 - d. travellers exempt from 14-day quarantine, including essential service workers,
 - Ineligible candidates:
 - a. have signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of entry to Canada,
 - b. have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case in the last 14 days,
 - c. do not have an acceptable quarantine plan and/or need to quarantine at a federal quarantine site (does not apply to exempt travellers),
 - d. non-exempt travellers proceeding to other provinces (participants must stay in Alberta for 14 days after entering Canada, unless they are departing the country directly from Alberta prior to the end of 14 days), or
 - e. travellers arriving on domestic flights into Calgary International Airport;
- II. Persons referred to in paragraph I who are accepted into the Pilot are not eligible to exercise any other exemption from Order 05-2020 as amended by Order 28-2020 for which they were also eligible at the time they were accepted into the Pilot or subsequent to being accepted into the Pilot;
- III. Persons referred to in paragraph I who are accepted into the Pilot who subsequently choose not to follow all the terms and conditions of the Pilot or are determined by a competent authority to have not followed all the terms and conditions of the Pilot must Quarantine themselves in accordance with Section 3(a) of Order 05-2020 as amended by Order 28-2020 without reference to this exemption and without reference to any other previously granted exemption for which they may qualify, except for exemptions that permit a person to leave Quarantine for the purposes of receiving or accompanying a child or dependent adult to receive medical or hospital services;
- IV. Persons referred to in paragraph I who elect not to enroll any or all of their dependents or whose dependents are not accepted into the Pilot must Quarantine

themselves and their dependents in accordance with Section 3(a) of Order 05-2020 as amended by Order 28-2020 without reference to this exemption and without reference to any other previously granted exemption for which they may qualify, except for exemptions that permit a person to leave Quarantine for the purposes of receiving or accompanying a child or dependent adult to receive medical or hospital services;

- V. The persons described in paragraph I, shall be prohibited from certain settings within Alberta in accordance with the following restrictions:
- a. Persons who are attendees, students in schools or staff who work in child care programs (e.g. daycare, out of school care), K to 12 schools, and post-secondary institutions cannot go back to these settings until they have had a second COVID-19 test on day 6 or 7 of their participation in the Pilot, and have received a negative result from that test;
 - b. For 14 days after arriving in Canada, these persons are restricted from entering continuing care, health care and other clinical settings where health care services are provided for the purposes of working, volunteering, or visiting, including any settings where there are vulnerable people at risk for severe disease; this includes, without limitation:
 - outpatient clinics,
 - acute care,
 - an auxiliary hospital under the Hospitals Act,
 - a nursing home under the Nursing Homes Act,
 - a designated supportive living accommodation or a licensed supportive living accommodation under the Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act,
 - a lodge accommodation under the Alberta Housing Act, and
 - any facility in which residential hospice services are offered or provided by Alberta Health Services or by a service provider under contract with Alberta Health Services;
 - c. These persons may only return to a workplace in Alberta with the permission of the employer and if the employer has implemented COVID-19 measures in accordance with Alberta's guidelines or direction from provincial or local public health; and provided the worker adheres to the workplace's COVID-19 public health measures,
 - d. These persons cannot return to high-risk work places for 14 days after arriving in Canada. These include:
 - correctional facilities,
 - homeless shelters or temporary housing facilities,
 - food processing facilities (for example, meat packing plants),
 - warehouses, distribution facilities (including distribution facilities supporting grocery stores), and assembly line manufacturing facilities (but does not include other industrial production sites where

- COVID-19 prevention measures are implemented and adhered to, for example, petrochemical production facilities), or
 - work camps (but does not include associated work sites such as petrochemical facilities),
 - e. These persons shall not attend events where there are more than 10 people (including the participant) for 14 days after arriving in Canada. This includes:
 - planned or unplanned events where individuals mix and mingle and socialize,
 - any location or activity where physical distancing is not able to be maintained at all times, (for example, sports, fitness classes, theatre, dance, music, and other cohorted activities), or
 - structured indoor or outdoor-seated events (for example, concerts, and sporting events),
 - f. These persons cannot attend or live in group living settings such as homeless shelters, work camps, group homes, and student dormitories for 14 days after arriving in Canada;
- VI. That the persons described in paragraph I must assess their health and those of their dependents and submit a daily report (online or over the phone) of any symptoms until 14 days have passed since their entry into Canada. If these persons become aware that they, or their dependents, have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms as per paragraph VII those persons must Isolate themselves and/or their dependents as the case may be, as per Section 6 of Order 05-2020 and follow the requirements set out in the Pilot;
- VII. COVID-19 symptoms that require Isolation under Section 6 of the Order include a cough, fever, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition or any COVID-19 symptoms listed in the Pilot that would result in Isolation which include:
- a. new or worsening cough,
 - b. shortness of breath/difficulty breathing,
 - c. temperature equal to or over 38°C,
 - d. feeling feverish, chills, fatigue or weakness,
 - e. muscle or body aches,
 - f. new loss of smell or taste,
 - g. headache, or
 - h. gastrointestinal symptoms like abdominal pain, and diarrhea, vomiting, or feeling very unwell;
- VIII. The persons described in paragraph I must follow appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines of public health officials including wearing a mask at all times in public outside of their Quarantine accommodation; and

- IX. The persons described in paragraph I must comply with the following measures until 14 days have passed since their entry into Canada:
- a. Monitor for symptoms and complete the daily check-in,
 - b. Take a second COVID-19 test on day 6 or 7 after entering Canada,
 - c. Stay in Alberta unless directly exiting Canada from Alberta,
 - d. Wear a non-medical mask or face covering while in public and private indoor settings outside of the address where the person is staying and outdoors when it is not possible to stay at least 2 metres away from other people,
 - e. Practice physical distancing at all times (stay at least 2 metres away from other people), and
 - f. Public transit is allowed, provided the person follows local public health guidance and wears a mask at all times.

Although the persons described in paragraph I are exempt from Quarantine per Section 10 of Order 05-2020 as amended by Order 28-2020 those persons should continue to engage in appropriate hygiene, maintain a minimum of 2 metres distancing from every other person, and other measures identified by public health authorities to protect this person and other Albertans from further transmission of COVID-19.

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 November 2, 2020 and terminates when the Pilot is ended for any reason and under any circumstance.



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