

September 1, 2020

Sector Exemption – Agricultural, Horticultural, and Food Safety Sectors

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 s. 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*.

Further to the above, the CMOH, pursuant to her authority under s. 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, made CMOH Order 05-2020 and amended through CMOH 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 the Order the CMOH may exempt in writing persons or classes of persons from the operation of the Order if they are “essential service workers”.

The Office of CMOH has determined that certain individuals/cases of persons providing goods or services for the sectors identified in this exemption should be exempt from the Order because these persons are considered to be in the category of “essential service workers” supporting critical infrastructure as defined by the Province in the Non-restricted services list on the Alberta.ca website and specified in Schedule A which may be updated from time to time.

Pursuant to Section 9 of the Order I am satisfied that the following persons are “essential services workers” as per Section 9(a) of the Order and that the other two requirements of Section 9(b) and (c) have also been met. As such, the classes of persons identified below are exempt from the Quarantine provisions set out in Section 3(a) of the Order subject to the following conditions:

- I. Subject to paragraphs II, III, IV and V, employees, contractors, and subcontractors of companies or of their subsidiaries that are involved in the agricultural, horticultural, and food safety industries as described in the attached Schedule A who have been designated as essential to the operations of their company and must travel to or from Canada to provide essential services that support critical infrastructure that is necessary to the operations of their company’s interests in Alberta or outside of Canada.
- II. Upon entry to Canada, the persons identified in paragraph I shall Quarantine themselves in accordance with the Order except that they may be permitted to leave the Quarantine premises where their company to whom they provide services requires the designated essential service worker to provide services that maintain, repair, install or support the operation of critical infrastructure in Alberta. If during this

time period the persons have a confirmed infection of COVID-19 or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms as per paragraph IV then they must isolate themselves in accordance with paragraph III of this Order.

- III. The essential services workers must assess their health and if they have a confirmed infection of COVID-19 or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms before or after crossing into Canada from another country must be in isolation as per Sections 1 and 2 of Order 05-2020 which requires them to postpone travel to or from Canada for 10 days, or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.
- IV. COVID-19 symptoms that would result in a postponement of travel by the essential services worker 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.
- V. If exempt from Quarantine per the terms of this Order and if providing services within Alberta during the period when the persons should have otherwise been in Quarantine, the exempted persons must follow appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines including wearing a mask at all times when outside of their accommodation.

Although the persons identified above are exempt from the Quarantine required per Section 3(a) of the Order the companies or entities to whom these persons provide services should continue to promote appropriate hygiene, a minimum of two (2) metres distancing from every other person, and other measures identified by public health authorities to protect these persons and Albertans from further transmission of COVID-19.

Persons exempted from the Quarantine required per Section 3(a) of the Order are still subject to any other applicable directions or other provisions that apply to "essential service workers" in Alberta.

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

This exemption comes into effect on September 1, 2020 and continues until terminated by the CMOH.

We trust this is satisfactory.

Yours Sincerely,



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

Enclosure

Schedule A – Agriculture, Horticulture, and Food Safety

Persons who are employees, contractors or otherwise provide services to the following in Alberta:

- Services or businesses that farm, harvest, process, manufacture, produce or distribute food, including beverages, crops, animal products and by-products, aquaculture, hunting and fishing;
- Businesses that support the food supply chain including assembly yards, livestock auctions, food distribution hubs, feed mills, farm equipment dealerships and suppliers, feed suppliers, food terminals and warehouses, animal slaughter plants and grain elevators, all farm input including fertilizer plants and distribution;
- Business that support the safety of the food supply including animal and plant health and animal welfare;
- Businesses that provide veterinary services and that supply veterinary and animal control medications and related supplies and testing kits;
- Operations that provide specialized pharmaceuticals or inputs to pharmaceuticals, including medicinal marijuana operations;
- Supply chain, distribution and wholesale staff, including inspectors and food safety staff.

