

April 13, 2020

Re: Exemption

Quarantined and Isolated persons who have minor children that require medical care

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta a public health emergency was declared in the Province of Alberta on March 17, 2020 pursuant to s. 52.1 of the *Public Health Act* of Alberta.

Further to that declaration of a public health emergency the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), pursuant to her authority under s. 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, made CMOH Order 05-2020 (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 of a public health emergency.

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.

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Order I am satisfied that the following persons should be exempted from the Order upon the following conditions:

Quarantined or Isolated Persons who are required to take minor children for scheduled medical care

Where a person in Quarantine pursuant to Section 3 or in Isolation pursuant to Sections 1 or 7 of the Order and is the parent or legal guardian of minor children under the age of 18 years and those minor children require scheduled medical care that can only be provided in a doctor's office, hospital, or other medical facility and it is not possible that another parent or legal guardian who is not subject to Isolation or Quarantine can accompany those children,

The person is exempt from the provisions of this Order that require Isolation or Quarantine to the extent necessary to allow the minor children who are to receive scheduled medical care and upon complying with the following:

- i) Where the person is required to accompany their minor children to a pre-arranged medical appointment where the minor children are not required to be admitted to hospital the person shall only leave their Quarantine or Isolation premises on the date of the appointment to attend to the doctor's

office, hospital, or other medical facility so the minor children 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 Quarantine or Isolation pursuant to this 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 possible, the person shall use private transportation of which they are the sole additional occupant with their minor children and travel directly to and from their Quarantine or Isolation premises to the location where the children are 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 Quarantine or Isolation premises to the doctor's office, hospital, or other medical facility, with no stops in between, also where possible, engage in social distancing of no less than 2 meters from other persons, who are not their minor children, 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 provision of Order 05-2020 are in effect.

Quarantined or Isolated Persons whose minor children require emergency care or admittance to a hospital or other medical facility

Where a person in Quarantine pursuant to Section 3 or in Isolation pursuant to Sections 1 or 7 of the Order is the parent or legal guardian of minor children under the age of 18 years who must accompany their minor children to a hospital or medical facility so that those children may receive emergency care or be admitted for medical care, and it is not possible that another parent or legal guardian who is not subject to Isolation or Quarantine can accompany those children, that person is exempt from the provisions of this Order that require Quarantine or Isolation to the extent necessary to transport, accompany or visit their minor children so they may receive emergency care or be

admitted to a hospital or medical facility but subject to the conditions set out in this exemption.

- viii) If the person's minor children need 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 minor children are in Quarantine or Isolation and shall follow all instructions per 911 or first responders concerning limiting the transmission of COVID-19 during the transport of the minor children to hospital.
- ix) If the transport of the minor children for emergency care or 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 their minor children for the purposes of emergency care or to be admitted to a hospital or medical facility the person shall advise the hospital, or medical facility as the case may be that they and/or their minor children are in Quarantine or Isolation pursuant to this Order.
- xi) The person whenever on the premises of the hospital or medical facility where the minor children are receiving emergency care or are admitted where either the person and/or the children are diagnosed with or symptomatic for COVID-19 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, the following:
 - a. Where an asymptomatic parent/guardian who is subject to Quarantine admits or accompanies their minor children diagnosed with COVID-19 to hospital or medical facility that parent would be required to use a mask and observe social distancing when going to and from hospital or medical facility premises
 - b. Where a symptomatic parent/guardian who is subject to Isolation admits or accompanies their symptomatic minor children to hospital or medical facility that parent and the minor children shall both be admitted to hospital or medical facility and be in Isolation on the same terms as Section 3 of the Order except to the extent that the parent and child shall be isolated together in the hospital or medical facility at a location specified by the hospital or medical facility until such time as the minor children are discharged.
 - c. Where a symptomatic parent/guardian who is subject to Isolation admits or accompanies minor children diagnosed with COVID-19 to hospital that parent and the minor children shall both be admitted to hospital or medical facility and be in Isolation on the same terms as Section 3 of the Order except that the parent and child shall be isolated

together in the hospital or medical facility at a location specified by the hospital or medical facility until such time as the minor children are discharged.

- d. Where an parent/guardian who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and subject to Isolation admits or accompanies minor children who are symptomatic to a hospital or medical facility that parent and the minor children shall both be admitted to the hospital or medical facility and be in Isolation on the same terms as Section 3 of the Order except that the parent and child shall be isolated together in the hospital or medical facility at a location specified by the hospital or medical facility until such time as the minor children are discharged.
- e. Where an parent/guardian who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and subject to Isolation admits or accompanies minor children who have also been diagnosed with COVID-19 to a hospital or medical facility that parent and the minor children shall both be admitted to the hospital or medical facility and be in Isolation on the same terms as Section 3 of the Order except that the parent and child shall be isolated together in the hospital or medical facility at a location specified by the hospital or medical facility until such time as the minor children are discharged.
- xii) For clarity this exemption also applies to permit a person with minor children who is not subject to paragraph (xi) of the exemption to travel to and from their Quarantine or Isolation premises for the purposes of visiting their minor children if permitted by a hospital or medical facility while they are receiving emergency care or are admitted to a hospital or medical facility and for the purposes of transporting those children to their home upon their discharge.
- xiii) The person when visiting their minor children shall travel directly to and from their Quarantine or Isolation premises to the hospital or medical facility with no stops in between.
- xiv) Where the person must transport the children upon their discharge they shall travel directly to or from the hospital or medical facility and subsequently to their children's home or the Quarantine or Isolation premises as the case maybe with no stops in between.
- xv) When using shared transportation to travel to and from the hospital or medical facility where the person's minor children are receiving emergency care or are admitted the person shall also wear a mask or other face covering that covers the mouth and nose.
- xvi) All other applicable provision of Order 05-2020 are in effect.

Any person who is exempted from this Order must continue to follow appropriate hygiene, social distancing, and other measures identified by public health authorities to the extent possible to protect other Albertans from further exposure to COVID-19.

The exemption provided by this letter 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 April 13, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Deena', followed by a large, stylized flourish that extends to the right.

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

