

March 30, 2020

Re: Request for Exemption – Industrial Work Camps

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 16, 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 07-2020** (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. A copy of the Order is attached for your reference.

Pursuant to Section 13 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 Office of CMOH has received requests asking that industrial work camp operators be exempt from all or portions of the Order.

Pursuant to Section 13 of the Order I am satisfied that an exemption be granted from the Order upon the following conditions:

The dining facilities of industrial work camp operators, are exempt from Section 4(a) of the Order that prohibits gatherings of more than 15 persons.

Even though an exemption has been granted to Section 4(a) of the Order industrial work camp operators are required to follow any guidance issued by Alberta Health, including the *Guidance for Managers and Operators of Industrial Work Camps* (<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-work-camps-fact-sheet.pdf>)

as it relates to their operations, including dining facilities, and in addition are expected (where practical) to establish practices that reduce the number of people together in one dining facility location at one time. These dining facility practices include but are not limited to:

- Removing/rearranging dining tables to maintain physical distancing.

- Placing tape or other markings on floors to maintain a physical distancing of no less than 2 metres.
- Staggering meal service times to reduce the numbers of people present at any one time.
- Adapting other areas to serve as additional dining space to increase spacing among persons in the same room.
- Providing take-out meals or having workers/clients take meals to their rooms or other areas for consumption.
- Ceasing the use of buffets and switching food to pre-packaged meals or meals served by staff.

This exemption does not limit or otherwise exempt your organization from any other orders or directives that require social distancing in the above noted food facilities. Although the persons/activities identified above are exempt per Section 13 of the Order as specified your organization should continue to promote appropriate hygiene, social distancing, and other measures identified by public health authorities to protect these persons and other Albertans from further transmission of COVID-19.

The exemption provided by this letter will be identified in the *Guidance for Managers and Operators of Industrial Work Camps* and may be terminated or modified by the CMOH in writing without notice as set out for any reason as determined by the CMOH. Any modifications set out in the *Guidance for Managers and Operators of Industrial Work Camps* that affect the content of this exemption letter will be incorporated into this exemption letter as applicable.

This exemption comes into effect on March 30, 2020.

We trust this is satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,



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

Enclosure