

# resident, family, and staff update

July 16, 2021

Dear families, residents, and staff,

There have been many changes in the last several weeks as the number of Albertans who are vaccinated has increased and the number of positive cases has decreased. The news of re-opening has brought a heat wave across the province. Please be sure that you keep hydrated and safe in these hot temperatures.

## Changes in protocols at seniors' care centres

We received information from Alberta Health with public health protocol updates and changes that we would like to share with you. The changes outlined by the provincial government are taking place in two phases, the first of which is to be implemented by the end of the month. The second phase will be implemented in the coming weeks. The table below outlines the scope of the changes and what is remaining the same for the time being.

Effective July 31, 2021 (Phase 1)		
Topic	Change	No change
<b>Visitation</b>	All visitors are welcome to visit their loved one; it is no longer restricted to the four designated visitors	N/A
<b>Masking</b>	All visitors must mask continuously in common areas  Masking in resident rooms is optional, based on resident preference  Staff can remove their mask if it inhibits their ability to provide care to a resident with communication challenges; this is at the discretion of the site	All staff, students, service providers, and volunteers must mask continuously  It is strongly recommended that visitors remain masked in resident rooms if the resident has not yet been fully vaccinated
<b>Screening</b>	Daily resident health assessment screening is no longer required	All visitors, staff, service providers, and volunteers must be screened prior to entry (no longer require a temperature check as part of the screening)
<b>Cleaning and disinfecting</b>	Required twice daily on high touch surfaces in common/public areas  Enhanced cleaning no longer required in resident rooms  Low touch cleaning and disinfecting is no longer required	N/A

Effective July 31, 2021 (Phase 1)		
Topic	Change	No change
<b>Single site employment</b>	N/A	Staff continue to be limited to working within one seniors' care centre
<b>Isolation and quarantine</b>	<p>Partially vaccinated residents must quarantine for 10 days or have a negative COVID test on day 7 or later and be asymptomatic after their return from a unit or health care facility that is on outbreak</p> <p>Fully vaccinated residents are not required to quarantine upon return from a unit or health care facility that is on outbreak as long as they remain asymptomatic</p>	Unvaccinated residents must quarantine for 14 days if the individual returns from a unit or health care facility that is on outbreak
<b>Outbreak</b>	<p>Operators must enhance cleaning and disinfecting if there is a confirmed outbreak</p> <p>Isolated/quarantined residents cannot leave their rooms in the case of a confirmed outbreak on the unit or site</p>	<p>Operators must have an emergency preparedness plan</p> <p>Operators can accept admissions and/or transfers to the site if they are comfortable managing potential risk to other residents, manage outbreak requirements, and ensure the incoming resident and family know about and accept the risk</p>

If you have any questions about the changes, please contact your Site Administrator or email [admin@covenantcare.ca](mailto:admin@covenantcare.ca). Click [here](#) to access further information on the Alberta Health Services.

### See you soon!

We are excited for these changes and are looking especially forward to having family and friends milling about the centre and visiting their loved ones again. You are part of our Covenant Care family and we have missed you.

Michelle Charlesworth  
Resident Experience Director

Lesia Mullings  
Resident Experience Director