

Heartland Housing Foundation

Safe Visiting Practices Policy - Designated Support Persons - July 24, 2020

Per Health Order 29-2020, Designated Support Persons are the two people each resident or alternate decision-maker designates as being essential to their care and wellbeing and who may enter the Lodge for visits. A resident may change their Designated Support Persons when necessary, but lodge administration must be notified.

In this initial phase of implementing the new Health Order, Designated Support Persons (hereafter DSPs) will be required to agree to the following safety measures to have **in-suite visits** with the resident who has designated them. These measures are crucial to maintaining the health of residents, visitors, and staff.

- At the discretion of the resident, both DSPs may be present for a visit.
- Visits may only take place between DSPs and their resident (no other residents may participate in the visit).
- DSPs visiting hours will be increased to support Monday to Friday morning, afternoon and early evening visits, as well as Saturday and Sunday morning and afternoon visits (**contact the site for availability and exact hours**)
- **DSPs must contact site administration to schedule visits.** This is to ensure that we have sufficient staff coverage to perform required health screening, review our safe visitor policy, and complete enhanced cleaning after the visit. Scheduling guidelines are as follows:
 - Contact the site **at least** 2 hours or more prior to your desired visit time (dependent on availability).
 - Refrain from visiting during resident scheduled mealtimes (contact site to confirm).
 - When possible, try to have an alternate visiting time available to help with scheduling (the site will try to be as flexible as reasonable to find a suitable visiting time).
- DSPs must agree to **wear a mask at all times in the common areas** (entry, hallways) of the lodge, and any time 2 meters of physical distance cannot be guaranteed throughout the visit.
 - If the mask is removed at any time during the visit, a fresh mask must be donned before exiting the resident suite.
 - DSPs are responsible for bringing at least 2 masks for their own use for each visit.
- DSPs and residents must **wash their hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (greater than 60% alcohol content) before, during as appropriate, and after all visits.
- DSPs must **agree to screening** upon entry to the Lodge by a staff member.

- In addition to the standard health questions, the updated screening tool also requires visitors to review and assess their own Risk of Unknown Exposure (see page 3) and self-assess the risk their visit may pose to the resident.
- Screening includes a temperature check.
- A visit may be postponed if the DSP does not complete or does not pass the screening.
- After successful screening, the DSP will be given an information sheet that outlines the supplemental cleaning to the resident's suite that DSPs will be required to complete at the end of their visit. This cleaning is to ensure that the resident's suite is as safe as possible after a visit.
 - DSPs will be given gloves and disinfectant wipes to be used at the end of the visit to sanitize any surfaces that have been touched in the resident's suite.
- If the DSP is visiting a resident who is in isolation for any reason, they will be provided with further guidance and appropriate PPE.
- At the discretion of the resident and based on the DSP's self-assessed risk of unknown exposure, safe physical touching/contact is allowed providing the DSP is wearing a mask during contact and any time 2 meters of distance cannot be maintained.
- DSPs may bring gifts or supplies to the resident, but those items may be subject to sanitization or temporary quarantine upon entry at the discretion of site staff.
- At the end of their visit, DSPs are asked to complete the surface cleaning (as noted above) within the resident suite, wear a mask at all times when outside of the resident's suite, and sign out with front desk staff before departing the lodge.

We want to thank all our residents and their Designated Support Persons in advance for their cooperation with these guidelines.

Risk of Unknown Exposure Assessment Guidance per HO 29-2020

Low Risk	High Risk
<p>To be considered at low risk of unknown exposure, all the following conditions must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not work or live in an area of high COVID-19 exposure (refer to Risk designation of region per Alberta Health)• Works from home• Part of a small cohort (15 or less) who consistently practices physical distancing and masks when cannot maintain distance• Not have had guests at home in the past 14 days• Visits resident(s) in one site in a day• Makes essential outings only• Uses own vehicle• Consistently maintains 2 metres of distance from those outside household in all activities• Mask worn when cannot maintain physical distancing• Consistent hand hygiene• No interprovincial travel within the last 14 days	<p>To be considered at high risk of unknown exposure, any one or more of the following may be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works or lives in an area of high COVID- 19 exposure (refer to Risk designation of region per Alberta Health)• Works outside home in settings where distancing is not consistently maintained and masking is not consistently used• Worked at or visited a location with a declared COVID-19 outbreak in last 14 days• Part of a large cohort (more than 15)• Cohort inconsistently practices physical distancing and use of masks when cannot maintain distance• Have had guests in home in last 14 days• Visits resident(s) in multiple sites in one day• Outings where contact with others outside household is likely• Use of public transit or carpooling where distancing is not consistently maintained and masking is not consistently used• Does not maintain physical distancing and does not wear a mask• Infrequent or inconsistent hand hygiene• Interprovincial travel within the past 14 days

Safe Visiting Practices from HO 29-2020

Hand Hygiene

All persons visiting, including residents, must wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (greater than 60% alcohol content) before, during as appropriate, and after all visits.

Use of PPE – General Practices

All designated family/support persons and visitors are **required to wear a mask continuously throughout their time indoors** and be instructed how to put on and take off that mask and any other PPE that may be required.

Single-use masks may be removed (and immediately disposed of) for indoor visits in a resident room if physical distancing can be maintained. A new mask must be worn in transit through the site. **Public Health Guidelines for use of masks must be followed.**