

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

RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 07-2020

Re: 2020 COVID-19 Response

I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

This investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.

Under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act* (the Act), I have the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a location for any period and subject to any conditions that I consider appropriate, where I have determined that the person engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. I also have the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Therefore, having determined that certain activities could transmit COVID-19 as an infectious agent and that certain other steps are necessary to lessen the impact of the public health emergency, I hereby make the following Order:

Effective immediately, all persons in the Province of Alberta must adhere to the following restrictions and comply with the following prohibitions:

Outdoor places

1. The gathering of persons in excess of 15 people in a group, in an outdoor location, is prohibited.
2. Any persons gathering in an outdoor location must maintain a minimum of 2 metres distance from one another.

Gatherings

3. Subject to section 4 of this Order,
 - (a) the gathering of persons in excess of 15 people in a group, in an indoor location, is prohibited; and
 - (b) any persons gathering in an indoor location must maintain a minimum of 2 metres distance from one another.
4. Persons gathering in an indoor location who are all members of the same household are excepted from the requirement in section 3(b) of this Order.

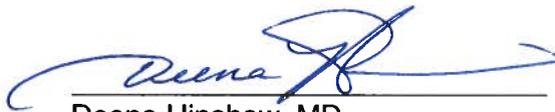
5. For greater certainty, sections 1 through 3 apply to any type of public or private gathering, including but not limited to, weddings, funerals, religious services, informal events etc.

Places of business

6. The following types of non-essential places of business are no longer permitted to offer or provide services to the public at a location that is accessible to the public:
 - (a) any place of business offering or providing non-essential health services;
 - (b) any place of business offering or providing personal services;
 - (c) any place of business offering or providing wellness services, including but not limited to massage therapy services and reflexology services; and
 - (d) any retail store, including a retail store located in a shopping centre, or other similar place of business offering or providing only non-essential goods or services.
7. Despite section 6(a), health professionals can offer or provide non-essential health services at a place of business only if the services are deemed urgent by the health professional providing the service.
8. For the purposes of this Order, a “non-essential health service” includes any service that is generally done to protect, promote or maintain health of an individual and where an interruption in the provision of services will not result in an individual’s life, health or safety being immediately endangered.
9. For the purposes of this Order, an essential service is a service considered critical to preserving life, health, public safety and basic societal functioning.
10. For the purposes of this Order, a “personal service” means any of the following activities performed on, in or to a person’s skin, hair, nails or teeth or other parts of the body of a person, for the primary purpose of enhancing, preserving or altering the person’s appearance:
 - (a) puncturing;
 - (b) cutting;
 - (c) shaving;
 - (d) exfoliating;
 - (e) applying pressure;
 - (f) inserting, implanting, attaching or removing objects;
 - (g) applying suction;
 - (h) using energy-emitting equipment;
 - (i) removing;
 - (j) styling;

- (k) applying or injecting cosmetic products.
11. Any place of business that is still permitted to operate that offers or provides services to the public at a location that is accessible to the public must:
 - (a) prevent the risk of transmission of infection to co-workers and members of the public by a worker or member of the public;
 - (b) provide for rapid response if a worker or member of the public develops symptoms of illness while at the place of business; and
 - (c) maintain high levels of workplace and worker hygiene.
 12. Restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, food courts and other food-serving facilities, including those with a minors-allowed liquor license can continue to offer or provide take-out, drive thru and food delivery services only. For greater certainty, no dine-in services are permitted to be offered or provided.
 13. Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may exempt a person or classes of persons from the application of this Order.
 14. This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 27 day of March, 2020.


Deena Hinshaw, MD
Chief Medical Officer of Health