



November 30, 2020

Westwinds Employees

RE: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Dear Staff members;

The province of Alberta has declared a state of public health emergency starting November 24, 2020. Our local communities continue to be located in a targeted measures area where reducing the COVID-19 impact is critical. As a consequence, there are mandatory restrictions on social gatherings, including cohorts that apply across Alberta including:

- Close contacts must be limited to people in the same household. Indoor social gatherings – even among members of the same cohort – are not permitted.
- People who live alone can have up to the same 2 non-household contacts for the duration of this restriction which are your designated essential visitors.
- Outdoor social gatherings can have up to 10 people (only 5 people on Westwinds property).
- Funeral and wedding ceremonies are limited to 10 people – receptions not permitted
- Places of worship in enhanced (purple) areas are limited to 1/3 of normal attendance – masks are required.

In addition, there are restrictions on workplace gatherings. The province has established fines for not adhering to the restrictions. We urge staff members and our residents/tenants to ensure they are complying with new protocols. For more information please consult <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>. These restrictions are expected to remain in place for at least three weeks (mid December).

I also recognize that we have been navigating COVID-19 protocols for eight months and many of you are facing COVID fatigue. Please remain really diligent in your COVID protocols as the virus is more evident in the seniors lodge sector than ever and each of you is our best defence. Please continue to practicing hand sanitation, masking, daily self-assessments and maintaining physical and social distancing of 2m to prevent the spread.

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Our primary risk areas for staff exposure include:

- Smoking and not physical distancing
- Eating meals/breaks and not physical distancing
- Temporarily removing mask not in a private area and or not physical distancing.
- No mask - exposure between staff (e.g. coming into the workplace, leaving the workplace, social interaction unmasked outside the workplace)

Please use precautionary measures when doing these activities and help prevent the risk. The stories I have heard about COVID in the lodges is heartbreaking to residents and staff alike, as the virus spreads so rapidly with such little unexposed contact.

Westwinds is also taking added precautions by encouraging residents to wear a mask when interacting with Home Care and will self isolate lodge tablemates when influenza symptoms are evident with residents.

Please ensure If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak with your Program Manager or contact me at 403.652.8600.

Sincerely,



Lauren Ingalls
Chief Administrative Officer