

RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 35-2020

Re: 2020 COVID-19 Response

Whereas 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.

Whereas the investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta.

Whereas under section 29(2)(b)(i) of the *Public Health Act*, I may take whatever steps I consider necessary

- (A) to suppress COVID-19 in those who may have already been infected with COVID-19,
- (B) to protect those who have not already been exposed to COVID-19,
- (C) to break the chain of transmission and prevent spread of COVID-19, and
- (D) to remove the source of infection.

Whereas on October 8, 2020, voluntary public health measures were put in place for the Edmonton zone in the Province of Alberta to target specific areas where transmission of COVID-19 was occurring.

Whereas despite these voluntary measures the city of Edmonton has continued to see an increase in the growth rate and daily new case numbers of COVID-19 with 1,718 active cases in the Edmonton zone (121 per 100,000) on October 22, 2020 which represents 49% of active cases in Alberta but with the Edmonton zone constituting only 25% of Alberta's population.

Whereas the growth rate and daily new case numbers of COVID-19 in the city of Calgary continue to climb sharply with 1,260 active cases in the Calgary zone (75 per 100,000) on October 22, 2020 which represents 36% of active cases in Alberta but with the Calgary zone constituting only 32% of Alberta's population.

Whereas current COVID-19 hospitalization levels and the accompanying impacts of COVID-19 community transmission have led to capacity problems in Edmonton Zone health services and elective procedures and services are being deferred in response.


Whereas a further increase in COVID-19 case hospitalizations is expected in the coming weeks in the city of Edmonton and the city of Calgary.

Whereas private social gatherings are a type of activity identified as high risk for the acceleration of transmission and spread of COVID-19.

Therefore, I am taking the following steps to protect Albertans from exposure to COVID-19 and to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. This Order is effective immediately and applies to all persons within the city of Edmonton and the city of Calgary in the Province of Alberta.
2. All private social gatherings are limited to a maximum of 15 people regardless of whether the gathering is fully or partially indoors or outdoors.
3. For the purposes of this Order, "private social gatherings" is defined as any type of private social function or gathering at which a group of people come together and move freely around to associate, mix or interact with each other for social purposes rather than remaining seated or stationary for the duration of the function or gathering and may include events such as wedding and funeral receptions, parties, and dinners.
4. Private social gatherings that exceed the 15 person limit but consist solely of members of the same household are excepted from this Order.
5. 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.
6. This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 26 day of October, 2020.


Deena Hinshaw, MD
Chief Medical Officer of Health