

RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 26-2021 which modifies CMOH Order 05-2020

Re: 2021 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 and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.

Whereas 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.

Whereas I made Record of Decision – CMOH Order 05-2020.

Whereas it is necessary to modify Record of Decision – CMOH Order 05-2020 to:

- (a) clarify isolation requirements for an asymptomatic person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19; and
 - (b) establish isolation and quarantine requirements for those persons who are close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 where those persons are:
 - i. partially vaccinated; or
 - ii. fully vaccinated.
1. This Order applies throughout the Province of Alberta, effective May 20, 2021 and:
- (a) rescinds Record of Decision – CMOH Order 28-2020;
 - (b) amends Record of Decision – CMOH Order 05-2020 by deleting sections 1-12; and
 - (c) substitutes the following:

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Part 1 – Application

- 1.1 This Order applies throughout the Province of Alberta and is effective May 20, 2021.
- 1.2 If a section of this Order is inconsistent with, or in conflict with, a provision in Record of Decision CMOH Order 23-2021 the provisions of this Order prevail to the extent of any inconsistency or conflict.

Part 2 – Definitions

- 2.1 For the purposes of this Order:
 - (a) “asymptomatic” means a person who is not exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
 - (b) “close contact” means a person who:
 - i. without the consistent and appropriate use of personal protective equipment, provides care to, lives with, or has close physical contact with, a person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19; or
 - ii. has come into contact with the infectious body fluids of a person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - (c) “confirmed case of COVID-19” means a person who has taken a Health Canada-approved test or PRC test which confirms that the person is infected by COVID-19.
 - (d) “COVID-19 symptoms” means the following symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition:
 - i. cough;
 - ii. fever;
 - iii. sore throat;
 - iv. shortness of breath;
 - v. runny nose; or
 - vi. loss of taste or smell.
 - (e) “essential worker” means a person who is designated by their employer as being essential.
 - (f) “fully vaccinated” means a person:

- i. who has received two doses of vaccine in a two dose vaccine series or one dose in a one dose vaccine series; and
 - ii. for whom fourteen days have elapsed since the date on which the person received the second dose of the vaccine of a two dose series or one dose of the vaccine in a one dose vaccine series.

- (g) “Health Canada approved test” means a Health Canada-approved and/or laboratory based test administered by accredited diagnostic laboratories that a person takes to determine whether they are a confirmed case of COVID-19.

- (h) “international traveller” means a person entering Alberta after having travelled internationally.

- (i) “isolation accommodation” means a home, hotel or other accommodation where a person resides while in isolation.

- (j) “isolation” means the separation of a person from any other person for the purpose of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

- (k) “partially vaccinated” means a person:
 - i. who has received one dose of a two dose COVID-19 vaccine series; and
 - ii. for whom fourteen days have elapsed from the day on which the person received the first dose of the vaccine.

- (l) “PCR” means a lab based, accredited, molecular test that a person takes to determine whether they are a confirmed case of COVID-19.

- (m) “quarantine” means the separation, under the conditions set out in this Order of a person who is a:
 - i. close contact; or
 - ii. international traveler
 from any other person.

- (n) “symptoms resolve” means the state when a person’s COVID-19 symptoms improve and the person remains afebrile for a period of twenty four hours without using fever reducing medications.

- (o) “symptomatic person” means a person who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms which are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.

Part 3 – Isolation requirements

General isolation requirements

3.1 A person is required to be in isolation if the person is:

- (a) exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms; or
 - (b) a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- 3.2 A person who is required to isolate under section 3.1 must start isolation and comply with the following restrictions:
- (a) isolate for a minimum period of ten days from the first day on which the person exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, or until the person's COVID-19 symptoms resolve, whichever is longer;
 - (b) remain at home, and two metres distant from any other person at all times;
 - (c) not attend work, school, social events or any other public gatherings; and
 - (d) not take public transportation.

Isolation requirements for people who enter isolation during quarantine

- 3.3 A person who must start isolation during their fourteen day period of quarantine, as required under section 4.3 of this Order, must isolate for a minimum of ten additional days from the first day on which the person exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, or until the person's COVID-19 symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.
- 3.4 Despite section 3.3, a person described in section 3.3 who takes a Health Canada approved test or a PCR test which indicates the person is negative for COVID-19 must not be in quarantine for less than fourteen days.

Additional isolation requirements for asymptomatic persons

- 3.5 Despite section 3.2, the ten day isolation period for an asymptomatic person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 begins on the day on which the asymptomatic person takes a PCR test which indicates the person is positive for COVID-19.
- 3.6 Despite section 3.2, if an asymptomatic person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 develops COVID-19 symptoms during the isolation period, that person must isolate for ten additional days, with isolation beginning on the first day that the person is symptomatic, or until their COVID-19 symptoms resolve, whichever period is longer.

Isolation Exception

- 3.7 Despite Part 3, a symptomatic person who is not a close contact is not required to be in isolation if a PCR test indicates the person is negative for COVID-19 and the COVID-19 symptoms resolve.

Part 4 – Quarantine requirements

General quarantine requirements

4.1 A person is required to quarantine if the person is:

- (a) an international traveller; or
- (b) a close contact.

4.2 A person who is required to quarantine must:

- (a) be in quarantine for a minimum period of fourteen days;
- (b) remain at an isolation accommodation, and two metres distant, from any other person at all times;
- (c) not attend work, school, social events, or any other public gatherings;
- (d) not take public transportation; and
- (e) watch for COVID-19 symptoms in themselves or in a family member.

4.3 Quarantine for a person starts:

- (a) for an international traveller, on the first day on which the international traveller enters Alberta;
- (b) for a close contact, on the last day which the person becomes a close contact and continues for fourteen days from the day on which the person was last exposed to the confirmed case of COVID-19.

4.4 A person who develops COVID-19 symptoms during quarantine must end the period of quarantine and commence isolation as set out in sections 3.3 and 3.4 of this Order.

Part 5 - Exceptions to quarantine

Fully vaccinated persons

5.1 Despite Part 4 of this Order, a fully vaccinated person who is a close contact is not required to quarantine.

Recovered infections

5.2 Despite Part 4 of this Order, if a person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19, recovers from COVID-19 and, subsequently, within 90 days of the date on which the person took the Health Canada approved test or PCR test confirming the recovered person was a confirmed case of COVID-19, again becomes a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19, the recovered person is not required to quarantine if:

- (a) the person has completed isolation as required under Part 3 of this Order;
- (b) their COVID-19 symptoms have resolved; and

- (c) they have not re-developed COVID-19 symptoms as a result of again becoming a close contact.

Essential workers

- 5.3 Despite Part 4 of this Order, a person is not required to quarantine if the person is an essential worker and a medical officer of health is satisfied that the presence of the person in a public place would involve reasonably low risk to the public health.

Part 6 – Quarantine requirements for partially or fully vaccinated close contacts

- 6.1 Part 6 of this Order applies to a person who is a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 who:

- (a) is asymptomatic;
- (b) is not an international traveler; and
- (c) is partially or fully vaccinated.

- 6.2 Despite Part 4 of this Order, a partially vaccinated close contact must quarantine for ten days starting from the last day on which the person becomes a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19.

- 6.3 Despite section 6.3, if a partially vaccinated, asymptomatic person takes a PCR test on the seventh day, or later, from the day on which the person becomes a close contact and the PCR test indicates that the person is negative for COVID-19, the person is released from quarantine on receipt of the negative PCR test results.

Part 7 – Isolation requirements for partially or fully vaccinated close contacts

- 7.1 Despite section 3.2 of this Order, a fully vaccinated, symptomatic person, who is a close contact is required to isolate for ten days from the first day on which the person exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or until the person's symptoms resolve and the person takes a PCR test which indicates the person is negative for COVID-19.
- 7.2 Despite section 3.2 of this Order, a partially vaccinated symptomatic person who is a close contact is required to isolate for ten days from the first day on which the person exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, or until the person's COVID-19 symptoms resolve and the person takes a PCR test which indicates the person is negative for COVID-19.

Part 8 – General

- 8.1 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.

- 8.2 For greater certainty, any person exempted, in writing by the Chief Medical Officer of Health from any requirement to Quarantine or Isolate, continues to be exempted and is further exempted from the application of this Order.
- 8.3 This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
2. Notwithstanding anything in ROD CMOH Order 26-2021, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may exempt a person or classes of persons from the application of ROD CMOH Order 26-2021.

Signed on this 21 day of May, 2021.



Deena Hinshaw, MD
Chief Medical Officer of Health