

COVID-19

INFORMATION UPDATE



January 22, 2021

To: Operators & Managers of Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities

**From: Dr. Sue Pollock, Medical Health Officer
Courtney Zimmerman, Corporate Director Environmental Public Health**

Re: UPDATE - Class Exemptions to the COVID-19 Single Site Order & Infection Control Expectations

There have been changes to the list of the classes of occupations that are exempted from the Single Site Staffing Order and the infection control requirements for these individuals when they are working in your facility. ***In the event that a COVID-19 Outbreak is declared at your facility all exemptions will be suspended and additional control measures will be put into place.*** Please refer to the chart below for the most up to date list of exemptions:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| biomedical engineers | medical laboratory technologists | podiatrists |
| certified foot care nurses | medical students | psychiatrists |
| critical delivery persons | music therapists | psychologists |
| critical facility managers/leaders | nurse practitioners | psychometric technicians |
| dental hygienists | nursing students | recreation therapists |
| dentists | occupational therapists | Red Seal chefs and cooks |
| dieticians | occupational health and safety specialists | regular and biochemical waste removal people |
| first responders | paramedics | rehabilitation attendants |
| *home health, including home support workers in assisted living only (contingent on information below) | pharmacists | resident physicians |
| immunizers | pharmacy technicians | respiratory therapists |
| infection control practitioners | physicians | social workers |
| inter-facility transport staff | physiotherapists | speech language pathologists |
| medical laboratory assistants | plant operators and tradespeople | wound care nurses |

*Home Support Workers that are providing services in Assisted Living facilities **ONLY**, are exempted as a class of employee. This is conditional on the fact that every effort is made by the scheduling departments to schedule the same Home Support Worker for each Assisted Living facility, and minimize the occurrence whereas Home Support Workers are working at more than one Assisted Living facility for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All service providers and other individuals that enter your site need to follow best practices with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hand hygiene and social distancing while in your Care Facility. Please review the [Infection Prevention and Control Requirements for COVID-19 in Long Term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living](#) (June 30, 2020) and ensure that you are aware of the most up-to-date requirements.

In addition to the standard requirements, the following are conditions required for all exempted individuals:

- The Care Facility will ensure that all staff are screened for signs and symptoms of illness, including COVID-19, prior to every shift: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>. Staff with signs or symptoms of illness, as well as those in self-isolation or quarantine in accordance with public health directives, shall not be permitted to work unless in extreme circumstances and without the approval of a Medical Health Officer.
- The Care Facility will ensure that the exempted individuals/employees follow all required infection control precautions, including donning of PPE.
- The Care Facility will provide education and training on infection control processes and applicable policies and procedures to the exempted individuals/employees, and will assess the exempted individuals/employees comprehension and implementation of infection control measures, PPE use and all facility policies.
- The Care Facility will monitor the adherence with the infection control measures and all expectations as set out in policy.

The best practices and conditions for exempted individuals are designed to protect the vulnerable persons in care at your facility, and we encourage you to remain vigilant. If you have questions regarding exemptions, please email singlesitefeedback@interiorhealth.ca; or if you have questions regarding other operational issues, please contact your Licensing Officer at licensingdirect@interiorhealth.ca.