

From: Kimberley Shenton <Kimberley.Shenton@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 11:35 AM
To: Kimberley Shenton <Kimberley.Shenton@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: COVID-19 Information - Please read
Importance: High

Hi All,

I wanted to provide an update with respect to our mutual clients and the COVID-19 virus. Please share with your staff as appropriate.

TRAVEL:

It is unlikely that the following travel guidance will directly impact any of our mutual clients at this time, but I have been asked to share the following message.

At this time, no consent will be provided for OPGT clients to participate in any international travel.

If travel is desired within Canada or within the province (outside of the Greater Edmonton Area) as with the current requirement for all OPGT clients – consent is to be sought in advance from myself.

OUTINGS:

If the client you are supporting has a documented compromised immune system, or is elderly, then consideration should be given to attending any events outside of their home/facility environment. At this time, OPGT clients who fall into the above categories should not be attending large sporting events, theatres, cinemas, etc. Please practice safe social distancing, as has been outlined by Health Canada and Alberta Health and ensure that clients are reminded and/or supported in proper hand washing with soap and warm water. Walks/outings with staff, as weather allows, with the opportunity to have positive recreation in areas without groups of people would be preferred. Handshakes, hugs and close contact are to be avoided and clients should be reminded of this.

MEDICAL/DENTAL/SPECIALIST APPOINTMENTS:

If the client you are supporting has a pre-arranged GP/Dental/Optical/Specialist appointment – please let me know as soon as possible and also contact the medical office to check whether they still wish to proceed with the appointment – or re-schedule for a later date. Wherever possible, transportation should be in staff vehicle (if permitted by your terms of employment), fleet vehicle, taxi service or DATS. At this time, I would request that any clients who have a documented compromised immune system or is elderly, please do not facilitate appointments on public transit.

ILLNESS/SYMPTOMS:

If the client you are supporting presents with any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or any other respiratory illness, please follow the latest guidance provided by Alberta Health. At this time, the direction is to call Healthlink 811. If the client is presenting with emergent issues, as always call 911. Please notify myself/OPGT via email or telephone at 780-643-6659 or outside of regular business hours, please call 1-866-262-9731.

VISITS:

In addition to the above measures, effective immediately, OPGT have been advised that all face to face visits are cancelled at this time. OPGT will be available via telephone, Skype, email, Facetime, facsimile, etc. As most of you are aware, OPGT travel through multiple acute care and long term care/social care

facilities throughout the province, and so this measure has been taken to reduce risk to clients, other patients and staff.

This situation is of course fluid and I will send out and updated direction or information as it becomes available to me.

If you have any client specific related questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you so much for supporting our clients, especially at this time.

Kindest regards

Kimberley

Kimberley Shenton
Acting Assistant Public Guardian
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