COVID-19

Info for Youth Shelter/Group Home Staff

While older adults are at higher risk of getting COVID-19, youth can get it as well. Here’s what you need to know to help support and protect your clients from COVID-19. Review the AHS Shelter Guidance: Preventing, Controlling and Managing COVID-19 document for more information.

Preventing Illness
- Staff and visitors must be screened daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Observe clients for new or changing symptoms. They may not be as pronounced in youth.
- Ensure hygiene products like soap, tissues and approved hand sanitizer are readily available.
- If needed, order PPE and hand sanitizer at xnet.gov.ab.ca/ppe.
- Provide updates at team meetings or at shift change.

Helping Youth Stay Healthy
- The most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is through proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, enhanced cleaning and daily screening.
- Help youth feel connected to others by facilitating communication where appropriate or possible.
- Be aware of how COVID-19 has affected location or hours of operation services used by clients (e.g., health care services).

If Someone Gets Sick
- Common symptoms of COVID-19 are:
  - Fever
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath / hard time breathing
  - Sore throat
  - Runny nose
- Less common symptoms are: chills, painful swallowing, stuffy nose, headache, muscle/joint ache, generally feeling unwell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, loss of sense of smell or taste, and pink eye.
- The list of symptoms may continue to change. Visit ahs.ca/covid regularly for the most current list and the AHS COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool.
- Anyone with symptoms MUST self-isolate for 10 days from when they start feeling sick, until symptoms are gone, whichever is longer.
- If a client has a medical emergency (e.g., chest pain, severe difficulty breathing, etc.), call 911.

How to Report
- Call the COVID-19 Coordinated Response Line 1-844-343-0971 if:
  - You have a client or staff member with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed case.
  - You need assistance or guidance in managing symptomatic clients or staff.
- Follow-up with the site leader.

Visit ahs.ca/covid for more information.