

Date: December 23, 2021

To: Zone Emergency Operations Centres (ZEOCs)
Site Leaders

From: The COVID-19 Family Presence and Visitation ECC Taskforce

RE: Patient passes over the holiday season

Please share this information with your site command posts, managers, and providers.

Dear ZEOCs and Site Leaders,

Although it is a time of year when patient passes are typically supported, given the circumstances with the growing community spread of Omicron, the Family Presence and Visitation Taskforce are recommending that all requests for patient passes be carefully considered before being approved. The following is a reminder of the current requirements within AHS acute care sites before granting an off-site pass that would be in addition to any site or program-specific off-site pass considerations:

- Passes should only be issued for patients when it is deemed by the care team an essential part of the patient's treatment plan (e.g., for patients who are an Alternate Level of Care designation, those in dedicated rehabilitation programs and Addiction and Mental Health patients) that cannot be delayed to a safer time;
- The pass must be ordered by a physician or designate;
- The individuals in the household where the patient will be staying must not be on isolation for COVID-19, have COVID-19 core symptoms, or be in close contact with someone with COVID-19;
- The patient receiving a pass should be oriented to all recommended safety practices before departure;
- Advise the patient when they return that they must be screened before entering the facility and agree to follow any admission criteria for the service area (e.g., symptom monitoring at least twice per day); and
- Advise the patient that if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or develop COVID-19 symptoms, they will be required to isolate on site.

Guidance for continuing care residents is under the direction of CMOH Orders [Protecting residents at congregate care facilities | Alberta.ca](#). In addition, Continuing Care residents should be encouraged to follow all [public health guidance announced Dec. 21](#) and reduce their contacts over the holidays by 50%. Sites should review the [public health guidance and requirements for having a safe holiday season](#) with residents.