

Process for Safe Visitation Under Compassionate Exemption

There may be circumstances where a client/patient/resident in Alberta requires visitation when they are either receiving critical care for a life-threatening illness in a healthcare site or receiving imminent end-of-life care and where the individual wishing to visit would otherwise be subject to quarantine under CMOH Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020.

An Exemption has been established ([Request for Compassionate Exemption – Section 10 – Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020 – Urgent End of Life or Critical Injury or Illness Visitation](#)) to allow individuals to seek visitation in Alberta under specific conditions.

Please Note:

1. An individual who has entered Alberta under the [Travel Pilot](#) is **NOT ELIGIBLE** to seek compassionate exemption through this process.
2. If an exemption under this process has been granted but the patient/client/resident has moved to another address, a second exemption must be sought for the new address.

The process involved will depend on the specific circumstances and is as follows:

A. Individual Seeking Exemption from Quarantine to Visit in Acute Care/Other Health Care Facility¹

The following steps will be required:

- a. Familiarity with [Request for Compassionate Exemption – Section 10 – Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020 – Urgent End of Life or Critical Injury or Illness Visitation](#).
- b. Request made to either a unit at a site or to the site for visitation for an individual under quarantine.
 - i. This request may be initiated by the patient/client/resident seeking visitation, their alternate decision maker, or the individual seeking to visit.
- c. Unit/Site initiates completion of the [Safe Visitation Site Approval Checklist – Facility](#).
 - i. The unit/site must complete required information on the form related to:
 1. Name of patient/client to be visited;
 2. Location of patient/client to be visited;

¹ Acute Care/Other Health Care Facility is defined under the Exemption as:

- An acute care hospital as defined by the *Hospital Act* in Alberta, Canada;
- A “health care facility” in Alberta, Canada as defined by Record of Decision CMOH Order 29-2020 Section 1(10);
- Any other setting in Alberta, Canada where services are being provided by employees, contractors or subcontractors of either AHS, Covenant Health or “health care facility” for end of life visitation as defined by Record of Decision CMOH Order 29-2020.

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3. Confirmation that the visit is for critical care for a life-threatening illness or imminent end of life care;
 4. Written confirmation of consent from the patient/client/resident or alternate decision-maker for the visit;
 5. Name of individual under quarantine wishing to visit;
 6. Contact information of individual under quarantine wishing to visit;
 7. Confirmation of a visitation plan with documentation of arrival and departure times;
 8. Confirmation that the unit/site is supportive of the visit; and
 9. Confirmation that all appropriate infection prevention and control (IPC) precautions are in place for the visit.
- d. The individual seeking exemption to visit must affirm through their signature:
- i. on the [Safe Visitation Site Approval Checklist – Facility](#) form that they are asymptomatic at the time of signing and agree to follow all required conditions and precautions; and
 - ii. on the [Requirements for Exemption - Visitor Attestation Form](#) that they will follow all requirements under the [Request for Compassionate Exemption – Section 10 – Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020 – Urgent End of Life or Critical Injury or Illness Visitation](#).
- e. Sites must have a defined authorization process to review requests.
- i. If not approved, rationale requires documentation;
 - ii. If approved, processes must be in place at the site to meet conditions as set out in [Request for Compassionate Exemption – Section 10 – Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020 – Urgent End of Life or Critical Injury or Illness Visitation](#).
 1. Note: Conditions at the time of visitation may impact ability to visit at that specific time such as an outbreak or grossly insufficient resources to support the visit; all steps must be taken to support visitation at an alternate time.

B. Individual Seeking Exemption From Quarantine to Visit in Home or Other Types of Facility Settings

The following steps will be required:

- a. Familiarity with [Request for Compassionate Exemption – Section 10 – Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020 – Urgent End of Life or Critical Injury or Illness Visitation](#).
- b. Request initiated for visitation for an individual under quarantine by the patient or client seeking visitation, their alternate decision maker, or the individual seeking to visit using the [Safe Visitation Site Approval Checklist – Non-Facility](#).

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- i. The responsible individual, defined as the home owner or registered tenant, in the location where the patient or client is located must complete required information on the form related to:
 1. Name of patient/client to be visited;
 2. Location of patient/client to be visited;
 3. Confirmation that the visit is for imminent end of life care;
 4. Written confirmation of consent from the patient/client or alternate decision-maker for the visit;
 5. Name of individual under quarantine wishing to visit;
 6. Contact information of individual under quarantine wishing to visit;
 7. Confirmation of a visitation plan with documentation of arrival and departure times;
 8. Confirmation that the location is supportive of the visit; and
 9. Confirmation that all appropriate IPC precautions are in place for the visit. This will involve discussion with healthcare professionals involved in providing care at the site (e.g. home care, palliative care team, etc.).
- c. The individual seeking exemption to visit must affirm through their signature:
 - i. on the [Safe Visitation Site Approval Checklist – Non-Facility](#) form that they are asymptomatic at the time of signing and agree to follow all required conditions and precautions; and
 - ii. on the [Requirements for Exemption - Visitor Attestation Form](#) that they will follow all requirements under the [Request for Compassionate Exemption – Section 10 – Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020 – Urgent End of Life or Critical Injury or Illness Visitation](#).
- d. The responsible individual in the household must sign the Form to approve the process, understanding that they will be responsible to ensure that all appropriate and required conditions are met for safe visitation.
 - i. If not approved, rationale requires documentation;
 - ii. If approved, processes must be in place at the location to meet conditions as set out in [Request for Compassionate Exemption – Section 10 – Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020 – Urgent End of Life or Critical Injury or Illness Visitation](#).

C. Individual Seeking Exemption from Quarantine not from Canada

In addition to completion of the process to obtain an Alberta Exemption, a federal exemption must also be sought if the individual is coming to Alberta from outside of Canada for purposes of visitation where a patient/client/resident is either receiving critical care for a life-threatening illness or imminent end of life care.

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Please note: An essential service worker with an existing federal exemption does not require an additional federal exemption.

The following steps are required in the following order:

- a. Completion of the Government of Canada [Letter of Required Support Request for Exemption on Compassionate Grounds: COVID-19 Federal Travel Restrictions and/or Limited Release from Federal Quarantine](#). This requires completion by the licensed healthcare professional providing care to the patient/client; and
- b. Initiation of the Government of Canada process for [Site Visit Authorization Limited Release from Federal Quarantine form](#). These forms, once completed, are submitted through the Government of Canada Portal at <https://border-frontiere.powerappsportals.com/en-US/entry-to-Canada-and-Limited-Release/>.
- c. Completion of either Part A or Part B of this AHS Process for Safe Visitation Under Exemption as applicable. This includes signing both the [Requirements for Exemption – Visitor Attestation Form](#) and either the [Safe Visitation Site Approval Checklist – Facility](#) or the [Safe Visitation Site Approval Checklist – Non-Facility](#) as appropriate.