

April 19, 2021

All Licensed Supportive Living, Long-Term Care and Hospice Operators

**RE: Rescinding Order 03-2021 COVID-19 Variant of Concern (VOC) Outbreak Protocol**

Dear Staff and Operators:

The foundation of Alberta's pandemic response is that we continually review and update guidance as new information and best practices are identified. As you are aware, the situation with Variants of Concern (VOC) is rapidly evolving in Alberta. Additionally, we have an increased understanding of the positive impacts full vaccination is having in continuing care sites. As such, effective April 9, 2021, [Order 11-2021](#) rescinded Order 03-2021 – COVID-19 VOC Outbreak Protocol.

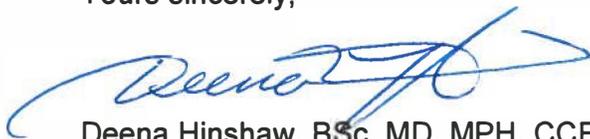
We recognize that this pandemic has had serious impacts on residents, staff and operators in continuing care. Thanks to vaccines, we have seen that the additional measures that were required in Order 03-2021 are no longer routinely necessary in sites with high vaccine coverage for residents and staff. Zone Medical Officers of Health, or their designates, can implement any additional required measures on a case-by-case basis to address any future VOC outbreaks in these settings.

Please continue to operate as you have been, referencing [Order 32-2020](#) (and other relevant information), and follow the direction of your local outbreak team in the event of any outbreak, including a VOC positive case. We continue to work with the feedback received during recent continuing care town halls to update the visiting Order 29-2020, and more information will be available in the coming weeks when changes are anticipated.

If you have questions about the changes to Order 11-2021, please contact [ASAL@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ASAL@gov.ab.ca) or call 780-644-8428.

Thank you for your support and shared commitment to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,



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Chief Medical Officer of Health

cc: Evan Romanow, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Service Delivery, Alberta Health