RECORD OF DECISION—CMOH Order 01-2020

Re: 2020 COVID-19 Response

I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

This investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.

Under section 29(2.1) of the Public Health Act (the Act), I have the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a school location for any period and subject to any conditions that I consider appropriate, where I have determined that the person’s engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. I also have the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Therefore, having determined that certain activities could transmit COVID-19 as an infectious agent and that certain other steps are necessary to lessen the impact of the public health emergency, I hereby make the following Order:

1. Effective immediately, all persons who are eligible to or are currently attending a school location (students) in the Province of Alberta are prohibited from doing so.

2. All students are prohibited from attending any classes or programs offered at any school location with the exception of education programs offered in a home environment by a parent or guardian to immediate family members only.

3. Students may attend a school location on the following conditions:

   (a) the student, or parent or guardian of the student, makes prior arrangements with school officials in advance of attending the school location for any purpose;

   (b) the school undertakes to ensure that proper public safety precautions and all applicable special measures are in place as may be specified by the medical officer of health;

   (c) the student, parent or guardian will comply with all directions from school officials and the medical officer of health.

4. For the purposes of this order, “school” is as defined in the Act and a school located on a First Nations reserve in Alberta. For greater certainty, this includes:

   (a) a school operating under the Education Act, and includes the physical location or place where the school provides a structured learning environment through which an education program is offered or provided;
(b) a school located on a First Nations reserve in Alberta;

(c) a place where an early childhood services program is offered or provided, and

(d) the premises where a child care program that is licensed under the Child Care Licensing Act is offered or provided.

5. All persons are prohibited from attending a place where an early childhood services program is offered or provided. All persons are also prohibited from attending a place where day care, out of school care or preschool programs licensed under the Child Care Licensing Act are provided or offered. For greater certainty, group family child care and approved family day homes are excluded from this Order.

6. All persons who are eligible to attend or are currently attending the following in the province of Alberta:

(a) a public post-secondary institution or private post-secondary institution as defined in the Post-secondary Learning Act;

(b) an institution that provides vocational training under the Private Vocational Training Act;

(c) an institution accredited by the following entities:

   i. the Association of Biblical Higher Education or the Association of Theological Schools (undergraduate and graduate programs at private, faith-based institutions);

   ii. Transport Canada - Canadian Aviation Regulations (flight schools);

   iii. Cecchetti Society of Canada (ballet programs and institutions);

   iv. Languages Canada (English language programs at public and private institutions);

(d) any Community Adult Learning Programs (part-time, non-formal adult literacy, and foundational learning opportunities) grant funded by Alberta Advanced Education;

(e) any approved training provider under the Training Provider Regulation;

(f) any First Nations College entity including:

   i. Maskwacis Cutlatural College;

   ii. Old Sun Community College;

   iii. Red Crow Community College;

   iv. University nuhelot’ine thayots’i nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills;

   v. Yellowhead Tribal College,

(g) any Indigenous adult learning provider entity including:

   i. Bullhead;

   ii. Chiniki Community College;
iii. Kayas Cultural College;
iv. Nechi Institute: Center of Indigenous Learning;
v. Riel Institute;
vi. Rupertsland Institute, and

(h) the Alberta Pipe Trades College (apprenticeship program provider)

are prohibited from attending in-person classes at the institution, provider or training provider.

7. This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 16th day of March, 2020.

Deena Hinshaw, MD
Chief Medical Officer of Health