

## Family update #107

July 10, 2021

Dear family and friends,

Our sincere thanks to everyone who attend the family town hall on Wednesday. These virtual monthly gatherings have been a touchstone for us through the pandemic where we connect and experience each other's support. For families who were unable to join our meeting, we are pleased to share good news about our visitation opening plans, which were discussed at the meeting.

We have received guidance from the provincial government about how to safely open visitation and are pleased that it is very similar to the phased approach we developed and shared with you in the spring. While not all public health orders have been rescinded, Alberta Health's goal is that all restrictions on the number and type of visitors will be removed that by mid-August. There are several other elements of the government's recommended approach, also with a mid-August timeline, that includes maintaining health screenings for visitors, masking being required in resident rooms, requiring cleaning twice daily instead of more frequently, and relaxing the requirement that staff work at only one site.

**Assuming that the number of COVID cases continues to decrease or stay minimal, our intent is to be fully open to visitors by mid-August. Please click [here](#) to see the details on the phases of safe visitation between now and mid-August.**

We continue to seek guidance from residents on their comfort with opening visitation. In a poll conducted this week, residents were almost evenly split, with some expressing comfort and others expressing worry that the risk is too high. This is something we will keep in mind as we plan and implement changes in coming weeks. We will support residents through the transition of opening; it will take some time to become confident and comfortable to fully interact again.

We know you have been waiting anxiously for this news as we have. Over the next several weeks, we will slowly and confidently open more and more, assessing every two weeks and making adjustments to ensure safety and wellbeing. We are looking forward to our centres once again being filled with the conversation and laughter from residents, families, and staff alike.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

*Shout for joy to God, all the earth!*

*Sing the glory of his name;*

*make his praise glorious.*

*~ Psalm 66:1-2*

Kathy Tam  
Chief Executive Officer