

Date: September 9, 2021

TO: Persons accessing service, families and guardians

FR: CHRYSALIS LEADERSHIP

RE: **COVID-19 update and enhanced measures**



The number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalization rates in Alberta continue to rise, with our positivity rate at 11.9%. Alberta reported 4903 new cases over this past long weekend. There are currently 647 people in the hospital due to COVID-19. Of the 647 hospitalizations, 147 are in the ICU. 89% of those in ICU are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated people. Chrysalis has also seen a spike in cases since mid-August, having 4 confirmed cases in Calgary and 3 in Edmonton. All close contacts have been notified and Chrysalis continues to work closely with AHS to ensure all protocols are being followed.

The health and safety of our workforce and persons accessing service continues to be our top priority. In an effort to maintain a safe environment and to minimize risk and exposure, we will be reinstating the following safety measures at Chrysalis:

Masking and Physical Distancing: Effective immediately, masking and physical distancing will be required in all environments, except when working alone. The only exception to physical distancing is in certain but rare circumstances when this is not possible or will cause disruption to operations. Exceptions to the use of masks or face shields include the inability of a person receiving services to adhere or a medical exemption. For staff with a medical exemption to masking, a physician's note must be provided. All exceptions require the approval of the Vice President of Programs and Services.

Meetings: Effective immediately, all meetings are to be moved from in-person to virtual meetings, unless essential for conducting business.

Cohorts: By Friday, September 17th, in-facility supports will be run throughout the facilities in cohorts/small groups wherever possible. Corresponding hazard assessments and point of care risk assessments will be updated and posted in areas where services are being delivered.

Work From Home (WFH): Work from home practices will be implemented by Friday, September 10th. All indirect support positions whose function can be completed from home are required to do so. Direct support (front line positions) and supervisor positions will continue to be on site to ensure service delivery is not disrupted.

Vaccines: While Chrysalis is not mandating vaccines at this time, we do need to know the percentage of our staff who are vaccinated. A survey was distributed to the entire workforce on September 9, where staff are required to indicate if they are vaccinated or not. This information is vital for Chrysalis to appropriately assess risk and effectively plan our Occupational Health and Safety approach. The results of the survey may influence Chrysalis' position on mandatory vaccinations in the future. We will provide more information on this soon. At this time, we continue to **strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated and ensure you have proof of vaccination.**

For additional statistics on vaccine outcomes, click [here](#).



Announcement

There are 3 ways to book a vaccination appointment:

- Online through [AHS](#)
- Through a local [Pharmacy](#)
- By calling 811

Our health screening practices will also remain in effect as an additional precaution along with stringent cleaning practices.

It is extremely important that we all continue to adhere to the health screen questionnaire and stay home if you are experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms, regardless if you are fully vaccinated or not. For a list of all COVID-19 symptoms, click [here](#).

We appreciate everyone's continued efforts to ensure the health and safety of all of our team members and those we serve.

Thank You,
Chrysalis Leadership