

Date: January 25, 2022

TO: All Staff, Persons Accessing Service, Family Members, and Guardians

FR: CHRYSALIS LEADERSHIP

RE: COVID-19 update



We hope you are all staying healthy and safe. Over the last two weeks, we have had 12 new positive COVID-19 cases in total at Chrysalis; 5 in Calgary and 7 in Edmonton. Close contacts were all notified and tested for COVID-19. Any staff member or person in service displaying symptoms are asked to stay home and are encouraged to get tested.

Positive cases and hospitalization rates continue to remain high in the province, with our positivity rate at 37%. On January 10, our government announced changes to PCR testing eligibility, in an effort to manage the rising demand for tests. PCR testing eligibility is now only focused on those with clinical risk factors for severe outcomes and those who live & work in high-risk settings (i.e. acute and continuing care, shelters, correctional facilities). The full eligibility list can be found [here](#).

Chrysalis does not fall under any of the specific eligibility criteria. Anyone (i.e. staff, people accessing service) that display any COVID-19 related symptom(s) that do not meet the listed criteria are asked to stay home and away from others for 5 or 10 days, depending on your vaccination status, or until your symptoms improve, whichever is longer. For more information on isolation and quarantine requirements, click [here](#).

Rapid Testing:

When made available, we are encouraging everyone to pick up a free COVID-19 rapid testing kit to help detect infections early. The kits can be picked up at select locations on a first come first served basis, while supplies last. Please click [here](#) for more information on rapid kits, including availability and eligibility.

Alternative Support Options (people accessing service/families only):

A survey has been distributed to all people in service and families titled “Alternative options for programs and services, pandemic planning,” in an effort to be proactive and develop “back-up support plans” for people if in-facility supports become unavailable. If you have not had a chance to complete that survey, please do so at your earliest convenience. **Survey Link:** <https://forms.gle/Et53msPi88xnDwv48>

We are and continue to be essential, remaining open and accessible to those who need us. However, with the increasing cases and the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, there may come a time where we are faced with the difficult decision to pause in-facility support if we see increasing cases in our facilities and/or staff shortages. We do not want to risk jeopardizing the health and safety of the people we support, as this continues to be our top priority. We want to reiterate that services can be accessed through our virtual and mobile service streams:

- **Virtual Supports** - Through various online media sources (google meets, facetime, zoom, etc.), Chrysalis continues to offer quality support and services. Our virtual stream offers great learning opportunities that use formal and informal modules for life skill development, connection to others through video resources as well as a multitude of activities for fun. We have laptops/chromebooks available if technology is a barrier. We are also able to provide training over the phone or in person (from a safe distance) for anyone that

wishes to access virtual but do not have the tools to do so.

- **Mobile Supports** - Chrysalis staff can provide services directly at your home while still following all AB Health and government mandated orders. This allows for important social interactions and will be personalized to meet people accessing service needs. Whether it's in-home support or quality time outside to have some hot cocoa from a distance, go for a walk, support with your grocery orders, or something else, then please contact us to see what we can do for you at home. Our staff are very well equipped with the proper PPE to ensure safe support practices. As mentioned these services can be adjusted or created based on individual needs.

If you are interested in accessing one of these service streams, please connect with a Chrysalis Supervisor, or, ensure you complete the survey mentioned above.

Vaccination: Boost protection with a third dose

We continue to strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated, including the booster dose. All Albertans 5+ can get the COVID-19 vaccine. Everyone 18+ can get a booster dose 5 months after the second dose.

There are 3 ways to book a vaccination appointment:

- Online through AHS
- Through a local Pharmacy
- By calling 811

All Chrysalis visitors are required to show either proof of vaccination, a recent negative COVID-19 test (within 72 hours), or a valid medical exemption letter before entering our facilities. This includes any person entering the facility who is not a Chrysalis employee or person in service (i.e. DATS/Access drivers, vendors, family members, contractors). If you have a scheduled in-person meeting with a visitor (i.e. contractor), please ensure you notify them of this information in advance.

Persons Accessing Chrysalis Services continue to be strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. We ask that all vaccinated persons accessing Chrysalis services provide proof of their vaccination, if they haven't yet done so. We are only requesting visual proof of the vaccine (i.e. an image from your phone, a printed copy). We will not be requesting or retaining copies.

- Proof of vaccination can be presented at the health screen desks as you enter the Chrysalis facility.
- For people that are not currently accessing in-facility/in-person support, we ask that you email our office administrator directly, stating the person in service's full name and indicating if they are partially or fully vaccinated.
 - Email: info@chrysalis.ca

Please continue to do your part and practice physical distancing, mask up and continue to follow all government guidelines. They can be found [here](#).

Chrysalis' additional health measures:

Mandatory work from home order (WFH): unless physical presence is required in the facility for operations (i.e. direct support positions, limited corporate services positions where necessary), employees are required to work



Announcement

from home.

Indoor social gatherings: indoor social gatherings are not permitted. For Chrysalis, it means that lunchrooms are closed to gatherings and that any social event outside of necessary programming will need to be postponed until further notice. Virtual events are encouraged.

Masking and Physical Distancing: masking and physical distancing continue to be required in all environments, except when working alone. The only exception to physical distancing is in certain 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: all in-person meetings are to be moved to virtual meetings, unless essential for conducting business.

We appreciate everyone's continued efforts to ensure the health and safety of all of our team members and those we serve. If you have any questions, please email us at info@chrysalis.ca.

Thank You,
Chrysalis Leadership