

Information Bulletin #6 - April 16, 2020 About Coronavirus (COVID-19)



For friends and family of GEF Seniors Housing tenants and residents

*Think of one thing you want to accomplish. Break it down into smaller steps.
Only focus on one small step at a time, not the big goal.
(Text4Hope)*

If you haven't already done so, you can sign up to receive daily text messages of encouragement and inspiration by **texting COVID19HOPE to 393939**.

Please see previous GEF information bulletins you have received for other important information, or [visit the GEF Seniors Housing website](#).

What's new

- Effective immediately as per [Order 10-2020](#) of the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health, all GEF staff who are in direct contact with residents or cannot maintain adequate physical distance of at least two metres must wear a mask. This requirement is only for staff at GEF lodges and the combined sites of Kiwanis Place, Pleasantview Place or Sakaw Terrace.
- Effective immediately, GEF will do a non-invasive temperature check of each person who enters or re-enters into our lodges and combined sites. This includes Designated Essential Visitors, GEF staff, Essential Services staff like CBI Home Care, residents, tenants at the combined sites and contractors.
- Staff will no longer be able to work at more than one GEF lodge site.
- GEF Seniors Housing must report any suspected case of COVID-19 to Alberta Health Services (AHS). To protect everyone and at the direction of Alberta Health Services, GEF staff is checking daily with all lodge residents to ensure they are well and asking them to complete the AHS Resident Daily Screening Questionnaire. Lodge residents will also be asked to complete the questionnaire upon re-entry to the site. Applicable residents have received a copy of the questionnaire, [which is posted on the AHS website](#).
- Tenants and residents have been informed that, if they have symptoms, they must telephone the site office immediately, and self-isolate in their unit.

Continued on back



These changes mean that, going forward, **GEF dining room staff who are serving food or delivering meal trays to residents in their units must wear a mask and housekeeping staff must wear a mask for the duration of their shift.**

There is still a no-visitor rule in place at GEF lodges and the combined sites of Kiwanis Place, Pleasantview Place and Sakaw Terrace. The only exception to this rule is in cases where the resident's essential care needs, like meals and baths, cannot be met without the assistance of a Designated Essential Visitor.

Each Designated Essential Visitor will receive and must wear a surgical mask for the full length of time they are in the building. They will also have a non-invasive check of their temperature. Staff at the front reception desk will give these visitors a mask after they have signed in, completed the AHS Staff and Visitor Screening Questionnaire and confirmed they are well.

The daily requirement to complete an AHS Resident Wellness Questionnaire does not apply to tenants in self-contained apartments. However, if they use lodge services, such as meal services, they must complete the AHS Staff and Visitor Screening Questionnaire whenever they visit the lodge for meals.

If AHS confirms a case of COVID-19 in one of our buildings, **GEF site staff will immediately report this information to all staff, residents and family of the residents in the building.**

As per previous orders of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, common areas in the lodges and apartments have been closed. Tenants and residents have been asked to please not bring furniture from their unit into a hallway, vestibule or foyer to visit with other tenants. Common rooms have been closed and furniture has been removed specifically to help preserve social distancing.

There have been some questions about mail delivery from Canada Post over the past few weeks, especially at the lodges and combined sites of Kiwanis Place, Pleasantview Place and Sakaw Terrace.

We have heard of some instances where mail was not delivered to a GEF lodge because we are currently restricting visitors. However, Canada Post knows they are an Essential Service provider and that they always have access to our buildings to deliver mail. When we hear of a localized issue with mail delivery, we work with Canada Post to get the mail to the site as soon as possible.

For tenants who are having trouble accessing grocery stores, we have suggested they may wish to consider Meals on Wheels, as they have both pre-packaged meals and the option to do groceries for tenants. They can call 780-429-2020 for more information.

Social distancing and good hand hygiene, including frequent handwashing, remain the best ways to protect yourself from COVID-19. Keep current with news from these websites:

Alberta Health Services: www.albertahealthservices.ca

Government of Alberta: www.alberta.ca/COVID19

Government of Canada: www.canada.ca/en

If you have any questions, please contact your site office.