



## **COMMUNITY NOTICE: COVID-19**

### *Legal Quarantine and Isolation Requirements*

When there is transmission of COVID-19 in the community, it is important that individuals with confirmed COVID-19, and those identified as close contacts, follow public health isolation/quarantine requirements. The following document outlines the legal obligations under the provincial Public Health Orders 05-2020 and Order 28-2020, and consequences for individuals who do not comply with the requirements.

#### **Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020: Isolation and Quarantine**

##### ***Who is Legally Obligated to Adhere to Public Health Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020?***

- Any individual who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 must be in isolation for a minimum of 10 days from the start of their symptoms or until the symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer; and,
- Any individual who is a close contact of a person who is confirmed as having COVID-19 must be in quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. Any individual who has returned from travel outside of Canada must quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

##### ***What Happens if An Individual Fails to Comply with Public Health Orders 05-2020 and/or 28-2020?***

Various steps can be taken when an individual fails to comply with isolation or quarantine requirements. This can include one or more of the following steps:

- A verbal reminder issued by public health officials.
- A written Order (which is legally enforceable) may be issued by the FNIHB Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and co-delivered by public health officials and the RCMP or local police.
- The individual may be subject to a \$1,000 fine. Courts can also administer fines up to \$100,000 for a first offence and up to \$500,000 for a subsequent offence for more serious violations.
- Under the Alberta Public Health Act, the FNIHB MOH may implement further control measures in the event that non-compliance is deemed to be high risk and immediate to the public, or the individual continues to not comply despite previous steps being taken.

## ***What is the Difference Between Isolation and Quarantine?***

**Quarantine** means separating individuals who are not ill themselves, but may have been exposed to COVID-19. The goal is to monitor symptoms and detect new cases early.

If you have **no symptoms** and any of the following apply to you, you must quarantine for 14 days:

- you had close contact with someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19
- you've been told by the public health authority/health centre that you may have been exposed to COVID-19 and need to quarantine.
- you're returning from travel **outside of Canada** (mandatory quarantine)
- you're travelling to a [province or territory](#) that's enforcing **14-day quarantine** for all inter-provincial travellers. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 while under quarantine, you must isolate for a further 10 days from the start of symptoms or until the symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

**Isolation** means separating infected people to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

You must isolate for a minimum of 10 days if **any** of the following apply:

- you've been diagnosed with COVID-19, or tested positive for COVID-19
- you have symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild
- you've returned from travel outside Canada **with symptoms** of COVID-19
- you may be required to isolate greater than 10 days. This will be determined by public health officials

### **Isolation and quarantine mean you MUST:**

- Stay at home
  - Do not attend work, school, social events or any other public gathering;
  - Do not visit other homes
  - Do not take public transportation.
- Stay at least 2 metres away from others in your home
- Do not have visitors;

**If you require assistance with isolation/quarantine obligations please contact the Health Centre for support and available resources. The commitment to stay home and adhere to public health requirements helps prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keeps communities healthy and safe.**

**More information on isolation and quarantine requirements can be found at**

**<https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx>**