

RE: EXEMPTION – ORDER 39-2021 – DESIGNATED FAMILY & SUPPORT PERSON FOR OBSTETRICAL PATIENTS

Whereas the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

Whereas the investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta.

Whereas under section 29(2)(b)(i) of the *Public Health Act*, the CMOH may make an order pursuant to her authority under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*.

Further to the above, the CMOH, pursuant her authority under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, made Order 39-2021 (the Order) identifying steps to prohibit persons from attending any location at any time period and subject to any conditions, any activity that could transmit an infectious agent, as well as any other steps that are necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Order the CMOH may exempt a person or classes of persons from the Order.

In accordance with the above, and pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Order, I am satisfied that an exemption should be granted from the requirements of the Order to the following persons upon the following conditions:

- A person who is symptomatic or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, and is subject to isolation, and has been requested by an obstetrical patient to attend to hospital or other medical facility with the obstetrical patient as an essential support person; AND
- the hospital or medical facility is aware of the fact that the essential support person is in isolation and still able to safely provide care.

The essential support person is exempt from the provisions of the Order that require isolation and may attend at hospital or medical facility to the extent necessary to allow an obstetrical patient to receive medical care, or to visit the obstetrical patient at that hospital or medical facility, upon complying with the following:

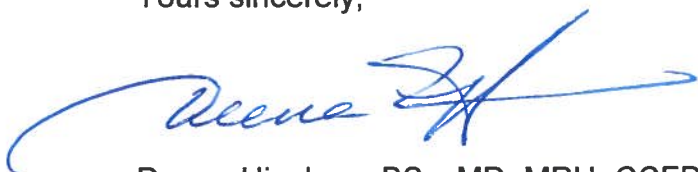
- I. Subject to the Order, the essential support person shall only leave their own isolation premises or the obstetrical patient's isolation premises to attend to the hospital or other medical facility so the obstetrical patient may receive medical care.

- II. The essential support person shall advise the hospital or other medical facility that the essential support person or the obstetrical patient are in isolation pursuant to the Order and shall follow all instructions provided by the staff of that facility concerning accessing the facility premises.
- III. Where practical, the essential support person shall use private transportation of which they are the sole occupant or travelling only with the obstetrical patient and travel directly to and from their isolation premises to the location where the obstetrical patient is to receive their medical care with no stops in between.
- IV. If the essential support person must use shared transportation, the person shall, in addition to travelling directly to and from their isolation premises to the hospital or medical facility with no stops in between, also where possible engage in social distancing of no less than 2 meters from other persons using the same shared transportation.
- V. When arriving at the hospital or other medical facility the essential support person shall obey all directions from medical staff concerning precautions against COVID-19 transmission including the following:
 - a. When entering and exiting the facility premises, the essential support person must wear a mask at all times, engage in regular hand hygiene, and observe physical distancing of 2 metres from every person except from the obstetrical patient and, as applicable, the infant.
 - b. The essential support person may remain with the obstetrical patient in the hospital or medical facility with both persons under contact and droplet isolation. This will include the facility providing access to bathroom facilities and food;
- VI. All other applicable provision of Order 39-2021 are in effect.

The exemption provided by this letter may be terminated or modified by the CMOH in writing without notice and for any reason as determined by the CMOH.

This exemption comes into effect on July 29, 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Deena Hinshaw, BSc, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCP
Chief Medical Officer of Health