

October 21, 2020

Re: Request for Compassionate Exemption – Section 10 - Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020 – Attendance at a Funeral or End of Life Ceremony

The Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), pursuant to her authority under s. 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, made CMOH Orders 05-2020 amended by Order 28-2020 (the Order) identifying steps to prohibit persons from attending any location for any time period and subject to any conditions, any activity that could transmit an infectious agent as well as any other steps to lessen the impact to public health.

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Order the CMOH may, notwithstanding anything else in the Order, exempt in writing persons or classes of persons from the Order on whatever terms are appropriate.

The CMOH on her own authority under the Order has determined that it is desirable that the individuals identified below who have entered Canada within the previous 14 days and would otherwise be required to Quarantine and who have been granted authorization to travel to or from a designated location or locations as provided to the Government of Canada in a Site Visit Authorization form to attend a funeral or end of life ceremony may be considered as being exempt from the Order.

In accordance with the above and pursuant to Section 10 of the Order, I am satisfied that an exemption be granted from the requirements set out in Section 3 of Order 05-2020 as amended by Order 28-2020 for the following persons upon the following conditions:

- I. Subject to the conditions in paragraph II to VII individuals who are required to Quarantine and who are designated by a site administrator as specified in a Government of Canada Site Visit Authorization Limited Release from Federal Quarantine (Site Visit Authorization) as persons who are required to depart from their Quarantine premises to designated sites or locations for the purpose of attending a funeral or end of life ceremony;
- II. The persons identified in paragraph I must follow the requirements listed in Schedule A, which may be updated by the CMOH from time to time, for the purposes of attending a funeral or end of life ceremony at a designated location or locations as listed on their Site Visit Authorization;

- III. That persons described in paragraph I shall Quarantine except when they are travelling to and from the designated location or locations as listed on their Site Visit Authorization;
- IV. The persons described in paragraph I shall travel in private vehicles of which they are the only passenger or, if they are not the only passenger, where possible, be continuously wearing a mask and distanced as much as possible from any other persons in that private vehicle;
- V. That the persons described in paragraph I must assess their health and if the individual becomes aware that they are a confirmed case of COVID-19 or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms as per paragraph VI that person must enter into isolation as per Section 6 of Order 05-2020;
- VI. COVID-19 symptoms that would result in isolation under Section 6 of the Order include a cough, fever, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition; and
- VII. The persons described in paragraph I must follow personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines of public health officials and must wear a mask at all times when outside of their Quarantine accommodation, including the designated location or locations as listed on their Site Visit Authorization.

Although the persons described in paragraph I are provided an exemption from Quarantine if the terms in Schedule A are satisfied per Section 10 of Order 05-2020 as amended by Order 28-2020, those persons shall continue to engage in appropriate hygiene, maintain a minimum of 2 metres distancing from every other person, and other measures identified by public health authorities to protect this person and other Albertans from further transmission of COVID-19.

The exemption 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 October 21, 2020.

Yours sincerely,



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

Enclosure – Schedule A

Schedule A

Individuals who are required to Quarantine under **Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020 (the Order)** may request permission to leave their quarantine on compassionate grounds for the purposes of attending a funeral or end of life ceremony (Attendee) at a designated location or locations as specified to the Government of Canada in a Site Visit Authorization Limited Release from Federal Quarantine form required by the Government of Canada (Site Visit Authorization).

This process does not apply if the Attendee is symptomatic or has COVID-19 as they are no longer in **Quarantine** and are required under Section 6 of the Order to **Isolate**.

Prior to signing the Site Visit Authorization, a site administrator should send the requirements listed below to the Attendee along with any other site specific procedures or protocols and receive written confirmation that the Attendee agrees to follow these conditions.

Attendees requesting a limited exemption from Quarantine must agree to the following terms prior to the site administrator signing the Site Visit Authorization which include, but are not limited to:

- Attendee should confirm that the family of the deceased is supportive of the Attendee's attendance at the funeral or end of life event;
- Attendee must quarantine as required except when travelling to and from the designated location or locations for the purpose of attending the funeral or end of life ceremony;
- Attendee must acknowledge there is a risk of exposure to COVID-19 (for self and others) when leaving quarantine due to pre-symptomatic spread;
- Attendee must wear a mask at all times as required by the orders of the CMOH or any other government authorities when outside of quarantine premises when they are travelling to or from and attending the funeral or end of life event at the designated site or locations;
- If the Attendee refuses to wear a mask or removes their mask in public or at the event, the Attendee may be subject to sanctions under the *Public Health Act* which may include being issued a ticket summons by local enforcement officers by referral to the local enforcement's non-emergency line;
- The Attendee is required to contact the site administrator, event host, family of the deceased and the funeral director if these individuals are not the same individual and notify them of the Attendee's attendance and that the Attendee's request to attend the funeral or end of life ceremony has been approved by the site administrator;

- If an Attendee cannot understand the conditions in this Schedule A or the exemption to which it is attached due to a lack of proficiency in English the Attendee must arrange for a suitable interpreter to explain the conditions in this Schedule A and the exemption to which it is attached. The Attendee must notify the site administrator, event host and the funeral director as the case may be that the Attendee has engaged an interpreter and that the interpreter is aware that this person will act as a point of contact to provide any subsequent additional instructions or conditions to the Attendee;
- The Attendee is required to wear a mask at all times outside of the Attendee's quarantine premises;
- The Attendee must distance at least 2 metres from every other person except in the case of family members who have traveled together and are in isolation together at the same location;
- The Attendee must perform hand hygiene upon entry and exit of any event locations;
- The Attendee may take single use disposable service material and printed memorials that are being distributed at the funeral or end of life event. The Attendee is to take any such materials provided with them upon departing the funeral or end of life event and dispose of them in the Attendee's private accommodation;
- The Attendee must not participate in any congregational singing;
- Prior to attending the event the site administrator who signed the Site Visit Authorization should make arrangements to ensure that after the ceremony, the Attendee's seat and armrests are disinfected;
- The Attendee is not permitted to eat any food or drinks provided at the funeral or end of life event or any post-event reception and if attending a post-event reception must wear their mask at all times and maintain distance at least 2 metres from every other person except in the case of family members who have traveled together and are in isolation together at the same location. The Attendee may consume food or drink as follows:
 - The Attendee may take food to eat provided at the event or any post-event reception and consume it at their quarantine accommodation; and
 - In the event that the Attendee while at the event or post-event reception requires food or drink, the Attendee should return to their private vehicle to take their mask off to consume their foods or drink, or find a private location distanced from others to unmask and consume their foods or drink.
- The Attendee may speak into a microphone as long as they continue to wear their mask;
- If the Attendee is using a hand-held microphone it should not be shared unless it has been properly sanitized prior to another person's use;
- If the Attendee is using a microphone on a stand, or one attached to a podium, they should avoid touching the microphone while they are speaking into it and it must be sanitized prior to another person's use;

- Where the Attendee does not have access to a microphone and wishes to speak at the event the Attendee may remove their mask only for the purpose of formal speaking during the ceremony, and as long as the Attendee is separated from the other persons to whom they will be speaking by at least 2 metres;
- The Attendee must wear a mask if participating in the service as a soloist singing performance and must be distanced at least 2 metres from any other performers at the event subject to the following:
 - In indoor spaces, masks are required and barriers are not recommended in place of wearing a mask, and
 - A solo singer/vocalist may perform without a mask if alone in a dedicated space or room (for example a constructed acrylic plastic room with four sides); and
- The Attendee must travel in private vehicles and must wear a mask and distance from others in that vehicle unless traveling alone in that private vehicle or with other family members who have traveled together and are in isolation together at the same location.