

October 22, 2020

Dear Alberta Funeral Services Association Members, Funeral Directors, and Industry Professionals:

We have appreciated the opportunity to consult with and receive feedback from leaders in your profession regarding recent changes to the federal quarantine policy. The federal government is now approving compassionate limited releases to travel-related quarantine requirements. This is to facilitate attendance at a funeral or end-of-life ceremonies, with conditions. The federal requirements that are communicated by way of email to individuals are enclosed for your reference.

Alberta also has a quarantine requirement under the *Public Health Act*. We have proceeded with including conditions and restrictions in an exemption order signed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Alberta that we have shared with your leadership. Please provide feedback to the Alberta Funeral Services Association (AFSA) to communicate any feedback or recommendations you may have, as we are committed to evolve these requirements based on the needs of your industry.

The federal government has included a requirement for individuals seeking this exemption to provide a Site Visit Authorization letter from the administrator or proprietor of the funeral home, which grants permission for the individual to attend a service at their site. The provincial exemption and its conditions provide guidance and support in alignment with this process. The federal process and the Site Visit Authorization form are available [here on the Public Health Agency of Canada website](#) and the form requires you to sign and acknowledge that:

"I confirm that the Traveller is permitted to visit the premises upon adherence to the below-listed conditions. I recognize that, even though the Traveller indicates that he/she is asymptomatic, there is a risk that the Traveller may be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

"The conditions under the federal Quarantine Act applicable to the Traveller during the site visit are to wear a non-medical mask or face covering for the duration of the site visit, and maintain a 2-metre physical distance from others where possible.

Notwithstanding, you may wish to institute additional procedures and protocols appropriate to address the public health risk posed by the visit at your facility or site."

The provincial exemption outlines additional conditions to protect public health and support your industry. It also states that there may be additional procedures and protocols you may require of these individuals prior to signing the federal government's Site Visit Authorization form.

We recommend that you require individuals to agree to the conditions set out in the provincial exemption as enclosed, prior to agreeing to sign a federal government Site Visit Authorization form.

Once again we want to express our thanks for the rapid feedback from leaders in your industry. This has allowed us to validate the public safety conditions and requirements for inclusion in the provincial exemption.

We appreciate the hard work you do every day helping Albertans and their loved ones participate safely in funerals and other end-of-life ceremonies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graham Statt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Graham Statt
Incident Commander
Emergency Operations Centre
Alberta Health

Enclosures

1. Provincial Compassionate Exemption
2. Canadian Government requirements emailed to travelers upon approval of their limited release from quarantine
3. Site Visit Authorization Form*

* This is attached for reference only. The federal Site Visit Authorization form is updated bi-weekly, so it is recommended that you download the most recent version from the Public Health Agency of Canada website if you are completing it on behalf of a traveler.