

**Special Measures Order  
(Personal Care Homes, Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities)  
(Updated)**

**Made pursuant to Section 28 of the  
Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**

February 12, 2021

TO: All operators, staff, new clients and residents of personal care homes, long term care facilities and assisted living facilities that provide care and assistance to seniors in their daily living, in Newfoundland and Labrador

**WHEREAS:**

- A.** While a declaration of a public health emergency is in effect, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may do one or more of the special measures authorized under section 28 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act** for the purpose of protecting the health of the population and preventing, remedying or mitigating the effects of the public health emergency;
- B.** On March 18, 2020, the Minister of Health and Community Services, on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, declared:
  - (i) a public health emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - (ii) the public health emergency is in effect for the entire province of Newfoundland and Labrador; and
  - (iii) the public health emergency is in effect for a period of 14 days effective immediately;
- C.** The public health emergency has been extended for 14-day intervals and is currently still in effect.
- D.** The Chief Medical Officer of Health, pursuant to subsection 28(2) of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, may provide notice in any manner that can reasonably be expected to give actual notice;
- E.** The Chief Medical Officer of Health, pursuant to section 28 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, made Special Measures Order (Restatement of Amendment No. 10) effective September 10, 2020 and Special Measures Order (Personal Care Homes, Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities) effective February 8, 2021;

- F. The Chief Medical Officer of Health believes that further special measures are necessary for the purpose of protecting the health of the population and preventing, remedying or mitigating the effects of the public health emergency; and
- G. The Chief Medical Officer of Health believes, in accordance with section 13 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, that the restrictions set out in this Special Measures Order (Personal Care Homes, Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities) (Updated) are the least intrusive measures reasonably required in the circumstances to respond to the public health emergency,

Pursuant to section 28 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, I, **Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health** **HEREBY ORDER:**

1. Notwithstanding Special Measures Order (Restatement of Amendment No. 10) effective September 10, 2020, all personal care homes, long term care facilities and assisted living facilities must:
  - a. Suspend group activities;
  - b. Suspend activities for residents outside of the home or facility;
  - c. Limit visitation to only one essential visitor per resident. An essential visitor is an individual considered, by the resident's care team, to be paramount to the resident's physical care and mental well-being, including assistance with feeding, mobility, personal care, communication assistance, or assistance with significant behavioural symptoms;
  - d. Ensure residents who are admitted from the community or acute care undergo screening, testing and isolation prior to admission to the home or facility;
  - e. Ensure anyone who enters the home or facility is screened before entry;
  - f. Ensure that staff are only shared between other homes or facilities in urgent situations where direct care of residents will be adversely affected; and
  - g. Monitor residents daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:**

1. This Order is effective immediately and applies to all operators, staff, new clients and residents of personal care homes, long term care facilities and assisted living facilities that provide care and assistance to seniors in their daily living, in the Newfoundland and Labrador.
2. This Order repeals and replaces the Special Measures Order (Personal Care Homes, Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities) effective February 8, 2021.

3. All other Special Measures Orders remain in full force and effect.

**TAKE NOTICE THAT:**

1. Failure to comply with this order may result in an application to the Supreme Court, in accordance with section 42 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act** to enforce the relevant provisions of this Order.
2. A person who is subject to an order made by the Chief Medical Officer of Health may request that the Chief Medical Officer of Health reconsider the order by filing a written request for reconsideration within 7 days after the day on which the order is served on a person. A written request for review or reconsideration of this order shall include:
  - (i) the reasons for the request;
  - (ii) a summary of the facts relevant to the request;
  - (iii) whether the order should be revoked or how it should be varied; and
  - (iv) the contact information of the person making the request and shall be sent to the following address:

The Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Department of Health and Community Services  
PO Box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
3. The Chief Medical Officer of Health shall review this Order no less than once every 5 days while the Order is in effect.
4. This Order remains in effect during any review or reconsideration.
5. Failure to comply with this Order is an offence for which you may be liable on summary conviction in accordance with section 56 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**.
6. For greater certainty, compliance with this Order is required in addition to and not in substitution for any requirement imposed by or under any applicable law.

Signed at St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

  
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Dr. Janice Fitzgerald  
Chief Medical Officer of Health