

February 22, 2022

Dear PCH Residents, and Families:

Re: Resumption of Social Leave

Shared Health has announced that PCHs can restart short stay absences (“social leaves”) for Residents. Short-Stay Absences are those off-site trips/visits that are not required for essential health care services. They are intended rather for single day excursions/family events and no overnight stays are allowed.

In order to resume short-stay absences (SSAs) **starting Thursday, February 24th**, the following guidelines must be observed to mitigate the risk for Residents and staff. These measures are drawn from Shared Health guidelines, Public Health Orders and our own Infection Prevention and Control protocols:

- Only fully vaccinated Residents are eligible for SSAs (*or if the resident is not fully vaccinated but is COVID-recovered within the past 180 days*) and the drivers must be fully vaccinated to enter the PCH for pick up and transport to destination.
- SSAs are available seven days a week and Residents must be picked up between **10:00 am and 6:00 pm at Bethania and Pembina Place** while our screeners are available. We ask that Residents are returned no later than 8:00 pm unless there is an exceptional reason.
- We request that you limit SSAs to no more than twice a week and that absences are for one destination only.
- Social leave must be by appointment. Families should call the Nursing Station at least **48 hours** before a planned SSA so that Nurses can prepare any medications needed during the SSA, and HCAs can assist in preparing the Resident for the leave. Drivers will complete the Resident Leave log at the Nursing Station as in the past.

Bethania Nursing Stations:

South 204-654-5038 / Centre: 204-654-5055 / North: 204-654-5031

Pembina Place Nursing Stations:

2nd Floor 204-223-2623 / 3rd Floor 204-791-5346

- Drivers will go through the usual screening procedure and are asked to wear a mask while driving with the Resident. Residents are expected to wear their masks (as can

be tolerated), during their leave period. We will provide masks for both parties. Residents and drivers should also perform hand hygiene before and after their leave.

- If the destination is a private residence, all individuals aged 12 and up must be fully vaccinated; individuals at the gathering must not have any cold/flu symptoms; no one present in the home should be under isolation; and masks should be worn at any time physical distancing is not possible
- Attendance at Church or other religious indoor services is acceptable assuming crowd numbers follow the Public Health Orders.
- Visiting shopping malls or other public venues with large crowds is strongly discouraged.

Each Resident and Family will need to assess the risks associated with SSAs and determine if the above conditions can be followed. Please note that SSAs social leave are subject to closure in the event of a COVID or influenza outbreak, or at the direction of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

Residents do not now have to be isolated and quarantined for 10 days following social leave, unless we are informed that someone they were in contact with during their leave has tested positive for COVID 19.

Should you have any questions about the above, contact Doris Furtado or myself.

Please keep our Residents and staff in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Gary J. Ledoux, CEO

Doris Furtado, Director of Care