



COMMUNITY NOTICE: COVID-19

Legal Quarantine and Isolation Requirements

When there is transmission of COVID-19 in the community, it is important that individuals with confirmed COVID-19, and those identified as close contacts, follow public health isolation/quarantine requirements. The following document outlines the legal obligations under the provincial Public Health Orders 05-2020 and Order 28-2020, and consequences for individuals who do not comply with the requirements.

Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020: Isolation and Quarantine

Who is Legally Obligated to Adhere to Public Health Orders 05-2020 and 28-2020?

- Any individual who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 must be in isolation for a minimum of 10 days from the start of their symptoms or until the symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer; and,
- Any individual who is a close contact of a person who is confirmed as having COVID-19 must be in quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. Any individual who has returned from travel outside of Canada must quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

What Happens if An Individual Fails to Comply with Public Health Orders 05-2020 and/or 28-2020?

Various steps can be taken when an individual fails to comply with isolation or quarantine requirements. This can include one or more of the following steps:

- A verbal reminder issued by public health officials.
- A written Order (which is legally enforceable) may be issued by the FNIHB Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and co-delivered by public health officials and the RCMP or local police.
- The individual may be subject to a \$1,000 fine. Courts can also administer fines up to \$100,000 for a first offence and up to \$500,000 for a subsequent offence for more serious violations.
- Under the Alberta Public Health Act, the FNIHB MOH may implement further control measures in the event that non-compliance is deemed to be high risk and immediate to the public, or the individual continues to not comply despite previous steps being taken.

What is the Difference Between Isolation and Quarantine?

Quarantine means separating individuals who are not ill themselves, but may have been exposed to COVID-19. The goal is to monitor symptoms and detect new cases early.

If you have **no symptoms** and any of the following apply to you, you must quarantine for 14 days:

- you had close contact with someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19
- you've been told by the public health authority/health centre that you may have been exposed to COVID-19 and need to quarantine.
- you're returning from travel **outside of Canada** (mandatory quarantine)
- you're travelling to a [province or territory](#) that's enforcing **14-day quarantine** for all inter-provincial travellers. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 while under quarantine, you must isolate for a further 10 days from the start of symptoms or until the symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

Isolation means separating infected people to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

You must isolate for a minimum of 10 days if **any** of the following apply:

- you've been diagnosed with COVID-19, or tested positive for COVID-19
- you have symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild
- you've returned from travel outside Canada **with symptoms** of COVID-19
- you may be required to isolate greater than 10 days. This will be determined by public health officials

Isolation and quarantine mean you MUST:

- Stay at home
 - Do not attend work, school, social events or any other public gathering;
 - Do not visit other homes
 - Do not take public transportation.
- Stay at least 2 metres away from others in your home
- Do not have visitors;

If you require assistance with isolation/quarantine obligations please contact the Health Centre for support and available resources. The commitment to stay home and adhere to public health requirements helps prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keeps communities healthy and safe.

More information on isolation and quarantine requirements can be found at

<https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx>