



For Immediate Release

March 18,2020

To All Members,

ALIGN will be sending these Communication Memos to you on a regular basis; hopefully daily as we move through this COVID-19 pandemic. They will be emailed to all directors and then posted on the ALIGN website for reference. Because there is so much information being provided we want to ensure the most pertinent info is available to you. So, for ease of access; on the ALIGN home page in the banners you will see COVID-19 this is where you will find 2 folders. "One will be Important Information from ALIGN and Ministry of Children Services", the other will be "COVID-19 Resources". Our website is here, www.alignab.ca.

ALIGN is meeting daily with the CS executive to keep informed of developments/issues and share information.

In addition ALIGN is participating on a committee developing practice guidelines and Rhonda is involved in a Rapid Response Task Team that will be developing protocols for responding to staffing issues and redeploying staff. Katie has sent a note out requesting the phone numbers for the ED/CEO's for all the agencies. We need to keep an updated list in case of emergencies. Please respond to Katie as quickly as you can.

We ask that all members implement both their Business Continuity Plans and Essential Service Response Plans and ensure they are communicated to your staff. We are recommending that you also track

your costs as a result of the COVID-19 activities that out of the ordinary. Those will be dealt with after the crisis has been addressed.

Planning is under way to hold two virtual meetings this week regarding COVID-19 with other congruent care providers from Red Deer /North and Calgary/South. The purpose of these meetings in to ensure agencies have a platform to communicate concerns, problem solve and obtain crucial information as needed. Expect invites today.

Planning is also underway for a meeting for Contract Foster Care sector as well, information to come soon, we are just working on details now.

In the meantime; CS has set up an e-mail Cs-ci-COVID-19@gov.ab.ca to send any question you have and a Q and A will be sent out regularly. If you have an urgent matter that cannot wait please contact or **Cathy Mitchell at 780-915 -7156** or **Rhonda at 780-233-5459** as they are able to contact the Ministry as needed.

Also available to you is Instagram, Facebook and twitter which our staff will be updating daily. Links are directly below as well as at the bottom of every memo we send out!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alignassociation>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/alignedmontonab/?hl=en>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/alignalberta>

For health concerns regarding staff and children/youth in your care, please follow AHS recommendations found at this link: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/>. Attached below please find copies of the Practice Guideline for Contracted Service Providers as well as the letter sent to all Caregivers and a Resource Document for Supporting Caregivers from CS.

Currently CS is working with AHS to try to secure another calling option for this sector other than the public 811, but until they do please continue to call 811.

Click On The Images Below For The Documents



Practice_Covid_guide AGENCY March 17 Update



Caregiver Letter COVID-19



Support for Caregivers during COVID-19 Pandemic

Thank you,



ALIGN
Association of
Community Services

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