

SILVERA'S PRIORITIES

ADVOCACY POSITIONS



Priority: Outbreak Funding Model

About Silvera for Seniors

Ensuring seniors in our community have a safe and affordable place to call home with the services and supports to meet their lifestyle needs and requirements matters to our Board of Directors, executives, partners, donors, employees, volunteers, residents, their families and the 700 seniors on our waiting list for affordable housing. Silvera is a trusted leader and a strong advocate for affordable (discounted) and well-priced market housing on behalf of seniors.

Silvera is a solutions-oriented community leader and a champion of seniors living in Calgary. We provide a diverse selection of housing with services and supports for independent older adults in 27 buildings in Calgary with 1,750 residents and 400 employees.

We are proud to partner with all orders of government to deliver on our commitment, to provide policy input to all orders of government, and to tirelessly advocate for issues and solutions that allow our seniors to live their best life and age with dignity. Our collective efforts can ensure that Calgary is a great city to age for all.

Background:

- As an operator of congregated living settings for over 60 years, public safety and health has always been a priority for Silvera. Preventing and managing gastrointestinal (GI), influenza, and other harmful bacterial/viral outbreaks is a core part of our operations.
- Silvera is committed to following best practices for outbreak prevention and management and working with the Ministry of Health and Alberta Health Services to ensure compliance with proper public health requirements that will help our residents remain as safe and healthy as possible.
- Silvera is proud of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our employees, residents, health partners, and resident families stepped up as role models to effectively limit the spread of this virus in our communities, including achieving full vaccination rates for residents and staff that exceed 95% (100% for staff).
- While the threat of COVID-19 has waned due to increased vaccination rates and general immunity, COVID-19 outbreaks still occur and GI, influenza and future pandemics continue to pose significant risks to Silvera operations and resident health and safety.
- Silvera continues to deploy best practices and disinfection innovation to prevent and limit the spread of outbreaks and is proud to report zero cases of influenza amongst staff and residents so far in the 2022/23 flu season.
- Through these efforts, Silvera has gained further insight and appreciation of the costs related to outbreak prevention and response.
- It is anticipated that COVID-19-related funding for supportive living operators will be phased out sometime in 2023.

Policy Priority:

When COVID-19 funding is eliminated, existing funding models will not sufficiently cover the costs of outbreak management. For Albertans to have confidence in congregated housing and accommodation options, operators need to have the resources to effectively prevent and respond to outbreaks that pose a risk to seniors in these settings. The Government of Alberta needs to update funding models to effectively support ongoing outbreak management activities for:

- Prevention of COVID-19, influenza, GI, and other public health illnesses (i.e. use of Clorox 360 machines, cleaning supplies, training, and awareness, etc.)
- Response to declared outbreaks of any kind (i.e. free access to PPE inventory, limiting reporting burden, resource appropriate regulatory compliance, communications, vacancy remuneration, and funding for staffing restrictions/impacts, etc.).
- Recognition and provision of care staff in all supportive living communities.
- Provision of on-site vaccination to staff at the same time as residents.
- Provision of on-site staff swabbing in an event of respiratory outbreak at the same time as residents for efficient outbreak response.

