

COVID-19: ALBERT LEA HRA ACTIONS

Shady Oaks

As the COVID-19 risk evolves in Minnesota, the Albert Lea HRA (ALHRA) is implementing appropriate and well-informed protections for staff and the families we serve. In our actions, we are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health, and the actions of other public housing authorities around the country facing a similar task.

“Social-Distancing” and Operational Changes

ALHRA is closely following public health guidance to determine how business-as-usual will need to change in these difficult circumstances. **Starting March 20, 2020, the office will be closed to the public indefinitely. Closing our offices does not mean ALHRA is closed for business. We remain committed to our mission and the families we serve. We will conduct as much business as possible by telephone and email and will respond as needed to emergency situations.**

Effective IMMEDIATELY:

1. We have already increasing the frequency of disinfecting all surfaces in public areas including door knobs, light switches, elevators, etc., to inhibit the spread of the virus.
2. All ALHRA staff will be maintaining social distancing and will conduct as much business as possible via telephone, email, and US Mail.
3. Rental payments can be made through the mail slot. If you would like a receipt, contact the office and one will be put under your door.
4. No “drop in” consultations/meetings will be held. Meetings with Applicant/Residents will be held by appointment only **starting March 20th**.
5. Maintenance staff will respond to work orders as necessary. Call the office at 507-377-4375 to report a work order during office hours 8:00-12:00 and 12:30-4:30 Monday thru Friday. After hours call 507-402-2280 for emergency work orders. There will be forms outside the office if you need to report a work order and don't have a phone. Complete the work order request form and put in the mail slot.
6. All common areas of Shady Oaks are closed (effectively suspending large gatherings) until further notice. **Bingo has been cancelled until further notice. Please note that the laundry rooms will not be closed.**

We are reassessing policies daily. In doing so, we rely heavily on guidance from Minnesota health officials with regard to what are considered prudent measures based upon COVID-19 prevalence in the state.

Please contact us at 507-377-4375 with any questions or concerns. You can find additional information regarding COVID-19 at www.health.state.mn.us and www.cdc.gov.

What happens if there is a case of COVID-19 in Shady Oaks?

Health officials are aware that ALHRA and other public housing authorities serve a population with higher risk factors. These officials inform ALHRA that in the event that a resident tests positive for COVID-19, standard protocols would apply as they would for any other resident of Minnesota:

- The individual would receive instructions to receive proper medical care and self-quarantine for a recommended period and would be expected to comply.

Depending upon the circumstances, health officials might recommend or enforce additional measures to protect the public health. ALHRA would support and comply with these measures.

ALHRA would not be notified in any formal way of a positive diagnosis. Under the law, ALHRA is a landlord, not a health care provider. This prohibits us from asking about or sharing health-related information of tenants. In the event of a positive case, public health officials manage the situation.