

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Office of the Associate Deputy
Minister, Long-Term Care Policy
and Pandemic Response

400 University Ave, 6th Fl
Toronto ON M5G 1S5

Ministère des Soins de longue durée

Bureau du sous-ministre associée
politique et Intervention contre la
pandémie pour les soins de longue durée

400, av University, 6^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 1S5



April 08, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Licensees

FROM: Erin Hannah
Associate Deputy Minister
LTC Policy and Pandemic Response

SUBJECT: LTC Pandemic Response Updates

Over the past month, a number of provincial public health measures were eased across communities and within long-term care homes. There have been increases to the number of cases throughout the province including within long-term care homes. Homes continue to report a large proportion of residents as asymptomatic and mild symptoms amongst the majority of symptomatic residents. The hard work and continued diligence of you and your teams in practicing the public health measures that continue to be in place in our homes including surveillance testing, screening, masking and strong IPAC practices remains of utmost importance as the second Omicron variant (BA.2) moves through communities.

COVID-19 Guidance Document for LTC Homes

As we continue to navigate the evolving COVID-19 landscape, the Ministry remains committed to our shared goal of striking an appropriate balance between the risk of COVID-19 and overall resident quality of life informed by expert public health advice. It is within this context that the following changes have been made to the [COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario](#). These changes will go into effect as of April 11th, 2022:

- Residents who leave the home on day and overnight absences do not need to isolate upon return however when returning from an absence (either day or overnight), residents must undergo a PCR test on Day 5 of their return.
- In non-outbreak situations only, cohorting practices, including for staff, are no longer required.
- The definition of fully vaccinated has been changed to staying up-to-date with vaccines, per the (previously shared) Ministry of Health [Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Recommended Doses](#) Guidance.

These updates align with upcoming changes that the Ministry of Health is making to the [COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units](#).

In addition, with the coming into force of the Fixing Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2021 and associated regulation, there are a number of updates to the [COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario](#) that have been made to ensure consistency. This includes information on the provisions under O. Reg. 95/20 that have been transitioned into [O. Reg. 246/22](#) which also takes effect April 11th. As well, there is an update on home vaccination policies and any application to outdoor visits and children under 5 years of age.

As previously noted in the memo on March 9th, the Ministry is working with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) on the retirement of several OCMOH Directives scheduled for April 27th. The Ministry will provide updates to the sector regarding plans to address this change shortly.

Supplemental Stockpile Access Program

As a follow up to the memos shared on January 7 and April 1, 2022, today's memo confirms that the Supplemental Stockpile Access Program (SSAP) will no longer be available after April 22nd. As was communicated in the previous memos, the SSAP was designed as a time-limited program, initially intended to run until March 31st.

After April 22nd, long-term care homes can continue to request PPE from the provincial pandemic emergency stockpile on an emergency basis, in addition to their existing PPE supply chains. 3M 1870+ N95 respirators continue to be available free of charge to long-term care homes and are readily available for distribution. Orders can be placed through the online [Critical PPE Intake Form](#). If you have any questions about your order, please contact SupplyChain.Inquiries@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued commitment to optimizing safety in long-term care homes for residents, their families, and your teams, and for your partnership as we continue to work through the evolving pandemic. As always, should you have questions you may contact us at MLTCPandemicResponse@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Erin Hannah
Associate Deputy Minister

Attachments: Updated COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-Term Care in Ontario (EN only with online to be posted in English and French shortly), What Residents Can Expect in Long-Term Care Homes (English with French to follow early next week), and FAQs

c: Nancy Matthews, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)
Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health (MOH)
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health
Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery
Division, Ministry of Health (MOH)
Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Capacity Planning and Analytics
Division, MOH/MLTC
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Michael Jacek, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Colleen Geiger, President and CEO (Acting), Public Health Ontario
Jeff Butler, Assistant Deputy Minister, LTC Operations Division, MLTC
Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health
Cynthia Martineau, CEO, Home and Community Care Support Services