

Ministry of Long-Term Care

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

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Ministère des Soins de longue durée

Bureau du sous-ministre associée
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pandémie pour les soins de longue durée

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Toronto ON M5G 1S5



December 28, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Licensees

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

SUBJECT: Pandemic Response: Additional Measures

A sincere thank you for your rapid action over the past two weeks to review and initiate your preparedness plans and put temporary enhanced measures into place. We recognize that this has not been easy on homes, especially as these measures were put in place over the holidays.

Based on advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), I am writing to communicate additional temporary enhanced measures as we continue to respond to the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases in both the community and long-term care homes.

Further Enhanced Measures

To continue to ensure safety for residents and reduce the risk of COVID-19 entering and spreading in homes, effective **December 30, 2021** at 12:01am:

- Access to long-term care homes by general visitors will be paused, including for outdoor visits. General visitors will continue to be permitted to enter the home to visit residents receiving end of life care.
- Day absences for all residents for social purposes will be paused. All essential, medical or compassionate absences will continue to be permitted.

Designated caregivers continue to be able to come into homes with a maximum of two per resident at a time. We recognize the impact these temporary measures have on residents, their families, and homes. The Ministry and the CMOH will continue to review policies and monitor all available evidence. At this time, it is anticipated that these additional enhanced temporary measures will be required for at least the next 6 to 8 weeks.

The updated LTC COVID-19 Guidance document is attached (English version). We are also including support materials to help the homes in implementing and communicating these additional measures to residents and families. This includes key messages to support

residents and families, the LTC Visitor, Absences and Social Gatherings Snapshot and What Residents Can Expect reference sheet. FAQs will be shared shortly. The LTC COVID-19 Guidance document will be available online shortly in both English and French.

The ongoing dedication, vigilance and resilience of you and your teams during this challenging time is critical and greatly appreciated as we work together to optimize safety in long-term care homes, for residents, their families, and our critical workforce.

Should you have questions you may contact us at MLTCPandemicResponse@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Erin Hannah
Associate Deputy Minister
LTC Policy and Pandemic Response

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
Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health
Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery Division, Ministry of Health (MOH)
Melissa Thomson, Assistant Deputy Minister, 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, Operations, MLTC