

Ministry of Long-Term Care

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MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Licensees

FROM: Jeff Butler
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Long-Term Care
Long-Term Care Operations Division

SUBJECT: High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) Filters for Shared Spaces and Rooms with Three or More Residents

The Ministry of Long-Term Care is continuing to implement preventative measures to protect residents, families, and staff from the highly transmissible Omicron variant. Further to the number of enhanced measures announced in the recent weeks, I would like to notify you of an additional resource we are providing to homes.

Based on public health advice, the Ministry will be sending High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters to all LTC homes at no cost to the home in order to mitigate the risk of transmission in high-risk areas. As a first priority, HEPA filters have already been delivered to LTC homes identified as having ward rooms occupied by 3 or more residents. Next week the Ministry will begin sending HEPA filters to all LTC homes for installation in other shared spaces where staff and/or residents may congregate. Homes will receive an email from the warehouse when the shipment is on its way. The email will provide standard delivery timing based on the region the shipment is being delivered to.

HEPA Filters for Shared Spaces

HEPA filters have been recommended by public health to be used in shared spaces used by staff or residents, or where crowding may occur, as these spaces have been identified as areas of high-risk throughout the pandemic. Such spaces include staff rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, activity and lounge rooms, worship spaces, and any other places staff or residents may gather for work or socializing, particularly where they may be unmasked.

To distribute readily available filters to LTC homes as soon as possible, the number of filters that will be sent to each home has been determined based on the size of the LTC home. Please see the table below for detail on how many filters to expect. LTC homes are requested to prioritize placing the initial delivery of HEPA filters in any resident rooms occupied by 3 or more residents (if not already completed –see section on HEPA Filters in Ward Rooms), in staff

areas, especially in areas where staff may remove their masks, such as break rooms and in resident congregate areas such as dining areas or activity rooms. If you receive more filters than required for high-risk shared spaces, you may consider using them in other common areas (e.g., hallways, entrances). Homes may wish to consult with their IPAC lead for advice.

Home Size (Number of Beds)	Number of HEPA Filters to be Sent
Up to 36	6
37 – 96	10
97 – 160	14
161 – 220	18
221 – 280	22
281 – 350	26
350 or more	30

Additional HEPA Filters

Knowing that each LTC home may have unique configurations for shared spaces for both residents and staff, LTC homes may request additional filters over and above this shipment. Areas that should have a HEPA filter may include:

- For residents: dining rooms, activity rooms, common rooms, and worship spaces;
- For staff: additional lunch/break rooms, kitchens, locker rooms, nursing/charting stations.

A link to a survey will be emailed out to all LTC homes through the Health Data Support Team from the Health Data Branch of the Ministry of Health. **Once your home has received the initial allocation of HEPA filters, please confirm the number of filters delivered and installed through the survey link.**

Please respond to the survey **as soon as the initial HEPA filters are delivered**. If you **do not receive the filters by January 21, 2022**, please email LTC.info@ontario.ca to inform us.

HEPA Filters for Ward Rooms

As per Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*, new admissions to ward rooms (i.e., rooms designed for 3 or more residents) are limited to rooms with no more than 1 other resident. However, for the limited number of LTC homes that continue to have **ward rooms occupied by three or more residents**, the Ministry is requiring these homes to install a standalone HEPA filter in each such ward rooms. Rooms occupied by two or fewer residents do not require a HEPA filter at this time.

The Ministry has already contacted and delivered HEPA filters to LTC homes that were identified as having more than 2 residents in a ward room based on the Weekly LTCH Occupancy Data and Summary Report.

If your LTC home was not contacted by the Ministry but your home does have ward rooms currently occupied with three or more residents and there is no HEPA filter available, please prioritize these rooms for installation of the filter and provide this information through the survey.

Filter Types & Delivery

Delivery and installation are expected to take place throughout January and will be overseen by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. Attached to this memo are the specifications of the different HEPA filter units that will be provided to LTC homes. If there are any issues with delivery or concerns with the HEPA units themselves, please email the Ministry at LTC.info@ontario.ca.

Given the timely nature of this initiative, your co-operation is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued efforts and dedication in supporting the safety of long-term care residents during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,



Jeff Butler
Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Operations Division

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