

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Office of the Associate Deputy
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January 17, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care (LTC) Home Licensees

FROM: Erin Hannah, Associate Deputy Minister
Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister

RE: **Long-Term Care Staffing Pool**

In response to the highly transmissible Omicron variant, the Ministry of Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health are taking further action to provide additional staffing support to Long-Term Care homes (LTCHs), in order to protect our most vulnerable and maintain the stability of staffing supply in long-term care.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Long-Term Care have worked with Ontario Health (OH) and the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) to identify a pool of internationally educated CNO applicants that can be deployed to LTCHs in need of staffing support.

The goal of the Long-Term Care Staffing Pool (LTC Staffing Pool) is to support LTCHs who need to hire staff on a temporary, urgent basis to carry out the added workload for essential services and/or to temporarily replace LTC workers who are sick or in isolation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the LTC Staffing Pool initiative, OH will work with participating LTCHs that require urgent staffing support, to match them with individuals identified from the LTC staffing

pool. These individuals would work as part of a team at the LTCH under the supervision of a regulated health care provider, such as a Registered Nurse.

Licensees of LTCHs may use funding under their COVID-19 Prevention and Containment 2021-22 funding allocation to support the hiring of workers from the LTC staffing Pool, if other applicable program funding has been utilized. Information on other eligible LTCH funding that can support hiring of workers from the LTC Staffing Pool is provided in the program guidelines. The Ministry will continue to monitor the evolution of the pandemic and will explore adjustments to funding should circumstances change.

For further information, we have attached the program guidelines which provide instructions on how LTCHs can begin to access these rapid supports to help address potential staffing shortages. We will also work with our partners at the Ontario Long-Term Care Association (OLTCA) and at AdvantAge Ontario to ensure that we can provide an orientation to these programs via a webinar (or webinars) as soon as possible.

We anticipate there will be high demand from LTCHs following the launch of the program, please expect that initial responses from OH may take longer than normal. OH will get back to you as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about this program, please contact PracticeOntario@ontariohealth.ca for more information.

We thank you for your continued partnership, support, and commitment to delivering high quality care to residents during this unprecedented time and we encourage you to leverage these supports and others in consultation with your OH region.

Sincerely,



Erin Hannah
Associate Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Policy and
Pandemic Response



Michael Hillmer, PhD
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capacity Planning and Analytics
Division

Encl:

- Long-Term Care Staffing Pool Guidelines

- c. Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health
- Anne L. Coghlan, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, College of Nurses of Ontario
- Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, OLTCA
- Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
- Jasmine Singh, Executive Director, Healthforce, Ontario Health
- Carol Strachan, Director, Staffing Supply Branch, Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)
- David Lamb, Director, Capacity and Health Workforce Planning, Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Jeff Butler, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Operations Division, MLTC
- Abby Dwosh, Director, Funding and Programs Branch, MLTC
- Monika Turner, Director of Policy, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)