

**Ministry of
Long-Term Care**

Office of the Minister

400 University Avenue, 6th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1N3

**Ministère des
Soins de longue durée**

Bureau du ministre

400, avenue University, 6^e étage
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January 22, 2021

Dear Partners:

I would like to start by thanking all of the staff who have been working around the clock to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our long-term care homes. We are all sincerely grateful for your ongoing dedication and support during this unprecedented time.

Our government will continue to do everything we can to protect our most vulnerable. As we continue to roll out COVID-19 vaccines with a focus on residents, staff and essential caregivers, the fact remains that the increase in community spread during the second wave is a serious threat to our long-term care homes.

I know that the vast majority of Ontarians, including our frontline health care heroes, are doing everything they can to help in our fight against this terrible virus. It is important that we all remain vigilant, especially in light of recent reports about community spread of a new variant and the risk that poses to our long-term care homes.

I would like to emphasize the importance of continuing to follow all public health measures for preventing the spread of COVID-19. By implementing and following these guidelines, we can ensure the ongoing protection of those who work and live in our long-term care homes.

Please help stop the spread of COVID-19 by:

- staying at home and only leaving your house for work and other essential activities, such as getting groceries or going to the pharmacy;
- practicing physical distancing, which means staying at least two metres away from people you don't live with;
- wearing a [mask or face covering properly](#) in indoor public spaces and outside any time physical distancing is not possible;
- cleaning your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- sneezing and coughing into your sleeve;
- avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth;
- following all infection prevention and control procedures while at work;
- receiving the COVID-19 vaccination if you are eligible;
- staying home from work if you have COVID-19 symptoms, even if they are mild; and

- immediately advising your supervisor, self-isolating, and [getting tested](#) if you think you have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

To help with contact tracing efforts, you should also [download the COVID Alert mobile app](#).

It is vital that we do everything we can to stop the spread of the virus and keep everyone safe. Following these practices as well as getting vaccinated are the safest, most effective and most reliable ways to protect yourself and those around you from contracting COVID-19.

I strongly encourage you to get vaccinated as soon as available to you, and I am asking for your continued support to turn the tide in our shared fight against COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Dr. Merrilee Fullerton
Minister of Long-Term Care