

**Ministry of Long-Term Care**

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Long-Term Care Operations Division

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May 12, 2021

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Long-Term Care Home Licensees

**FROM:** Sheila Bristo  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Long-Term Care Operations Division

**SUBJECT:** **Progress Towards Occupancy Targets**

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I would like to express my gratitude for your ongoing efforts during the pandemic, and for your recent work with placement co-ordinators to implement admissions plans while responding to last month's Call to Action. As of May 10, more than 1,500 new and returning residents were safely welcomed to long-term care from hospitals (including Reactivation Care Centres and Alternate Health Facilities). These admissions and transfers reflect what can be achieved through working together and show again the strength and resilience of the long-term care sector.

To build on the momentum of this collective effort, I would like to share additional guidance for homes to reach the occupancy levels you have identified in your admissions plans when the targets are reinstated on September 1. Homes are asked to safely fill the available vacancies identified in your admissions plans at the following rates:

- 40% as of June 1
- 70% as of July 1
- 90% as of August 1, and
- full occupancy as of September 1, excluding unavailable beds.

Striving towards these goals will help to ensure that homes are prepared when the occupancy target of 97% for long-stay beds is reinstated.

As you know, changes aimed at supporting placements into long-term care were recently introduced such as the copayment waiver for ALC-LTC patients who agree to move to a LTC home that is not their first choice home, modified isolation requirements for admissions/transfers, and the ability for fully immunized staff to work at more than one home (subject to local public health direction).

Ensuring flow across the health care system is of utmost importance to ensure Ontarians get the right care, at the right time, in the right place. We look forward to continuing to work with our sector partners to support the ongoing pandemic response and the path to recovery.

Once again, a sincere thank you for all your efforts in supporting the safe placement of new and returning long-term care residents to their homes.

Sincerely,



Sheila Bristo  
Assistant Deputy Minister

- c: Brian Pollard, ADM, Long-Term Care Capital Development Division, MLTC
- Janet Hope, ADM, Long-Term Care Policy Division, MLTC
- Erin Hannah, AsDM, LTC Pandemic Response, MLTC
- Jim Yuill, Director, Corporate Services Division, Ministry of Health
- Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health
- Catherine Brown, Executive Lead, COVID Pandemic Response, Ontario Health
- Donna Cripps, Transitional Regional Lead (Central), Ontario Health
- Cynthia Martineau, Transitional Regional Lead (East), Ontario Health
- Brian Kytlor, Transitional Regional Lead (North), Ontario Health
- Tess Romain, Transitional Regional Lead (Toronto), Ontario Health
- Mark Walton, Transitional Regional Lead (West), Ontario Health
- Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
- Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association
- Monika Turner, Director of Policy, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, Association of Municipalities of Ontario