



November 16, 2020

## **UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Hello, we are grateful that we have received no additional positive staff results today. Donegal (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Wexford (5<sup>th</sup> floor) and Cavan (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) continue on droplet contact isolation precautions. The other home areas remain on droplet precautions.

As you are aware the province has recently implemented a colour coded system for regions based on a variety of factors for Covid19. The level also determines the type of visiting that can occur in a LTC Home. Although we are in an outbreak, which means that only designated caregivers can visit, this restriction could be ongoing based upon the colour level that the City of Ottawa is determined to be in once the outbreak is over. Ottawa remains in the Orange-Restrict classification so visiting is currently restricted to designated caregivers only in all LTC Homes. I am attaching a letter received on these restrictions.

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has also recently recommended that all staff and visitors should wear eye protection in any resident or clinical area; this is in addition to the universal masking requirement while in the Home. This requirement will be in place for all homes even if they are not in outbreak. The other notice is that OPH strongly advises that universal medical grade masking in LTCHs and RHs be extended to residents (as tolerated). We continue to encourage residents to wear masks as tolerated when outside of their room.

Stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands and maintain social distancing.

***Janet Morris***  
President and CEO

**Ministry of Long-Term Care**

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Long-Term Care Operations Division

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**Ministère des Soins de longue durée**

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November 14, 2020

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **Update to the COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open**

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As you may know, the Ontario government recently released the *COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open*. The new framework categorizes public health regions into five levels: Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, Orange-Restrict, Red-Control, and Lockdown being a measure of last and urgent resort.

The province has updated its visitor policy to address areas with higher community spread of COVID-19. Changes have been made to the types and number of visitors permitted in long-term care homes.

Effective as of October 7, 2020, where an area has been identified as having higher community spread, general visitors are not allowed. Only essential visitors, including up to one caregiver per resident, may visit. These visitor restrictions have been in place since October 7, 2020 in:

- the City of Toronto
- the City of Ottawa
- York Region
- Peel Region

Effective Monday, November 16, at 12:01 a.m., the restrictions will also apply to the additional public health regions moving into the Orange-Restrict and Red-Control levels of the COVID-19 response [framework](#).

Caregivers are essential visitors who are designated by a resident or their substitute decision maker and who:

- provide direct care to residents, such as helping with feeding, mobility, hygiene, or cognitive stimulation
- are family members or friends, privately hired caregivers, paid companions and/or translators

Local public health may provide further direction on the types and numbers of visitors to the homes to ensure the health and safety of all residents, staff, and visitors. People planning a visit to a long-term care home are advised to contact the home in advance to make sure the home is free of outbreaks, and to get information on the home's visitor policy and any other restrictions.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

*original signed by*

Sheila Bristo  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Long-Term Care

c:

Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care  
Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division  
Michelle Ann-Hylton, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Capital Development  
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario  
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association  
Catherine Brown, Interim Executive Lead, Ontario Health

Attachments: Ministry of Long-Term Care Covid-19 Visitor Policy  
Frequently Asked Questions Covid-19 Visitor Policy