



April 16, 2021

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

Hello, today a staff member had a positive rapid test. The PCR has been completed and we will look forward to receiving the result. The staff member worked on Donegal. As we await the result of the PCR test result, to ensure everyone's safety, those residents on Donegal who were in contact with this staff member will be on full isolation precautions. Upon receipt of the PCR result, in consultation with Ottawa Public Health, we will determine the next steps. We are very thankful for the rapid testing process so any potential positive COVID-19 staff or designated caregivers are identified early and we can implement the necessary protocols.

All of our PCR swabs received to date for staff surveillance from Carlow are negative.

Those residents on Carlow and Donegal who had contact exposure to the staff who is positive or positive from a rapid test result are on isolation precautions and will have their meals served in their rooms.

The residents on Carlow and Donegal who did not have contact with the staff members who had a positive rapid or PCR test and those who are on all the other home areas are on droplet precautions and can leave their rooms, eat in the dining room, and go outside for some fresh air. Mass and the hair dressing services as per the schedule continue and the garden is available for residents as per the schedule.

I am sure that you have heard recently in the news about people moving from hospital to LTC Homes to free up hospital beds due to the occupancy challenges in the hospitals. St. Pat's has been admitting people whenever we were outbreak free. Admissions to LTC Homes from hospital is the same process as has been in place during the pandemic. We still review the applications and determine suitability for LTC. As we are no longer in 'outbreak' we started admissions again this week and will continue to have admissions as quickly as feasible with the necessary protocols. People moving into LTC Homes must have in have a negative COVID-19 PCR result prior to admission and they are in 14 days of isolation in a single room. A letter sent to the Family Council of Ontario from the Ministry of LTC is attached for your information.

Although the weather has returned to the more normal spring in Ottawa, it is still better than snow!

Be well and stay safe,

***Janet Morris***  
President and CEO

**Ministry of Long-Term Care**

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**Ministère des Soins de longue durée**

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April 14, 2021

Dear Residents and Family Members of Long-Term Care,

I wanted to share with you directly information about a joint call to action that has been issued by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (“the ministry”) and Ontario Health to respond to the unprecedented challenges facing our health care system.

Each home is being asked to do everything they can over the next two weeks to admit or readmit hospitalized patients waiting for a long-term care home, with a minimum goal of 1,500 placements across the more than 600 homes in Ontario. On average this would mean two or three new residents per home, although in some cases it might be more, and in some cases slightly less.

Bringing more residents in to homes will be done in a safe way for current residents, staff and the new residents. People will not be moved into spaces needed for isolation, nor into 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> beds in ward rooms. This is about bringing individuals into immediately available vacancies that meet individual needs, and where the home has the necessary staff to accommodate these moves without compromising the care of residents already in the home.

Each day residents and families share stories about the mental, emotional and physical toll of the pandemic, and the sense of renewed hope that vaccines have brought. The ministry, with our partners, is seized with advancing along the path to recovery, and we recently asked homes to maximize safe opportunities for residents and families to engage in activities that bring them joy, comfort and dignity, and give them back a sense of choice in their homes and lives. The latest call to action does not diminish or replace the importance of these recovery efforts, nor our commitment to continue to move forward towards a “new normal”.

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Feedback from residents and family members is welcome, and through the Ontario Association of Residents and Family Councils Ontario, resident and family voices are being included in the discussions to help shape the future of long-term care in Ontario. We hope to communicate more about our next steps very soon. If you have specific ideas about recovery, please do not hesitate to share these with the ministry team by emailing [MLTCpandemicresponse@ontario.ca](mailto:MLTCpandemicresponse@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,



Richard Steele,  
Deputy Minister,  
Ministry of Long-Term Care

cc: Samantha Peck, Executive Director, Family Councils Ontario  
Dee Lender, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Residents' Councils  
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario  
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association  
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Michael Jacek, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Colleen Geiger, President and CEO (Acting), Public Health Ontario  
Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health  
Catherine Brown, COVID Executive Lead, Ontario Health  
Donna Kline, Chief Communications and Engagement Officer, Ontario Health  
Erin Hannah, Associate Deputy Minister, LTC Pandemic Response, MLTC  
Jeff Butler, Assistant Deputy Minister, LTC Pandemic Response, MLTC  
Sheila Bristo, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, MLTC  
Tess Romain, Regional Lead (Interim) – Toronto, Ontario Health  
Cynthia Martineau, Regional Lead (Interim) – East, Ontario Health  
Brian Kytort, Regional Lead (Interim) – North, Ontario Health  
Mark Walton, Regional Lead (Interim) – West, Ontario Health  
Donna Cripps, Regional Lead (Interim) – Central, Ontario Health