

Ministry of Long-Term Care

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Ministère des Soins de longue durée

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December 7, 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: ***Alignment of Directive #3 with the COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open***

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

The Ministry would like to advise the sector on changes to Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 (Directive #3), effective December 9, 2020.

Directive #3 has been updated to align with the provincial framework and includes additional information pertaining to:

1. **Admissions and Transfers**

- In areas with low transmission of COVID-19 as identified by the province (i.e., Green (Prevent) stage in the [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#)), an admission/transfer to a long-term care home from a hospital may occur without the required 14-day self-isolation period provided that neither the hospital nor the long-term care home are experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak AND both the hospital and the long-term care home are located in areas that are in the Prevent (Green) stage of the provincial framework.

2. **Absences**

- For long-term care homes located in public health unit regions in the Orange (Restrict), Red (Control) or Grey (Lockdown) levels in the provincial [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#), absences are not permitted except for medical or compassionate reasons.

3. **Managing Visitors**

- Clarifies that long-term care homes must also comply with the Minister's Directive: [COVID-19: Long-Term Care Home Surveillance Testing and Access to Homes](#) issued by the Minister of Long-Term Care, effective November 23, 2020 or as amended.
- Essential visitors are the only type of visitors allowed when the long-term care home is located in a public health unit region where there is evidence of increasing/significant community transmission i.e., Orange (Restrict), Red (Control) or Grey (Lockdown) levels in the provincial [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#).

4. **Testing**

- Clarifies that long-term care homes must also comply with the Minister's Directive: [COVID-19: Long-Term Care Home Surveillance Testing and Access to Homes](#) issued by the Minister of Long-Term Care, effective November 23, 2020 or as amended.

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
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
Monika Turner, Director of Policy, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division
Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Capital Development

Attachments:

COVID-19 Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes