

COVID-19 Guidance for Long-Term Care

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Ontario 

March 11th, 2022

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today. While we meet today on a virtual platform, let's take a moment to acknowledge the importance of the land, which we each call home.

We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures.

We acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territory of all the Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people that call this nation home.

Please join in a moment of reflection to acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and to consider how we can each, in our own way, move forward in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



Housekeeping Q&A

LTCMar11



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Updated Long-Term Care ... Q&A Polls

Updated Long-Term Care Home (L...
Feb 7 - 10, 2022
#WebinarFeb8

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There are no questions asked yet.
Ask the first one!

Positive trends:

- Positive public health and health system indicators are improving (ICU admissions, hospitalizations)
- Long-term care home outbreaks and active staff and resident cases have been decreasing substantially
- Active staff and resident cases are mostly asymptomatic or present mild symptoms



Going forward:

- Continuing to re-balance the need to reduce COVID-19 risk with the importance of overall resident health, wellbeing and quality of life
- Infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures to remain in place:
 - Screening and testing
 - Masking
 - Personal protective equipment
- Continue to monitor trends and respond as needed



Immunization Policy Update (1/2)

- Staff, residents and families stepped up helped to mitigate the severity of outbreaks and got us to the downside of the Omicron wave
- At this stage of the pandemic, government is able to shift from a provincial directive to a guidance-based approach
- Effective March 14, 2022, the *Minister's Directive on Long-Term Care Home COVID-19 Immunization Policy* will be revoked and homes will be supported with their employer-led policies and best practices



Immunization Policy Update (2/2)

- For added clarity: Long-term care homes **can** continue to require proof of vaccination for staff, volunteers, support workers, student placements, caregivers, and general visitors
- Home's requirements must be consistent with the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*, including the Residents' Bill of Rights, and comply with all applicable laws, such as the Human Rights Code
- Vaccination is a key defense against COVID-19. Staff and residents should continue to get vaccinated, including receiving medically-recommended boosters



Changes Effective March 14, 2022

	Current	March 14
Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirmed COVID-19 infection:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resume surveillance testing 30 days post-infectionSurveillance testing required for all visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirmed COVID-19 infection:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resume surveillance testing 90 days post-infectionNo surveillance testing for outdoor visitsNew OCMOH recommendation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Combined oral and nasal sampling when using RAT tests for surveillance testing



Changes Effective March 14, 2022

	Current	March 14
<p data-bbox="341 325 580 372">Activities</p>  <p data-bbox="112 1332 135 1358">9</p>	<ul data-bbox="868 329 1633 858" style="list-style-type: none">• Residents should be cohorted in small groups during high risk activities (singing, dancing, etc.)• Avoid large gatherings (more than 10) for events and social gatherings	<ul data-bbox="1699 329 2448 1372" style="list-style-type: none">• Social group activities:<ul data-bbox="1791 408 2430 872" style="list-style-type: none">• Can be increased in size• Avoid larger group activities to reduce potential crowding• Cohorting no longer required (except for dining)• Universal masking requirements remain in place• Physical distancing not required• Visitors may support in dining room and join in activities

Changes Effective March 14, 2022

	Current	March 14
<h3>Absences</h3> 	<p>Permitted absences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social day absences for all residents• Overnight absences for residents with at least 3 doses	<p>Permitted absences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All residents may resume overnight temporary absences
<h3>Visitors</h3> 	<p>Visits permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All general visitors 5 years of age and older who have at least two doses• 3 visitors (including caregivers) at a time• 4 designated caregivers per resident (unless designated before December 15th)	<p>Visits permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All general visitors allowed as per vaccination policy of the home (with exception for children under the age of 5)• Indoor visitors (including caregivers) increases to 4 per resident• No limits on outdoor visits

Pandemic Measures – Supports Remaining in Place



Ongoing support for up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination, including boosters through employer-led policies and best practices



Active screening for all individuals prior to entry



Surveillance testing



Use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and masking for all individuals working at or visiting a LTCH



IPAC audits completed every two weeks if not in outbreak, or weekly if in an outbreak



Outbreak management practices as directed by Public Health Units

Reopening Ontario Act & Directives

The **Reopening Ontario Act**, 2020 is set to expire on March 28th, 2022

- Applicable regulations will be removed over time to allow homes to recalibrate and make plans for returning to normal operation
- Homes are encouraged to plan ahead with labour partners and staff to develop contingency plans for how to respond to potentially critical staffing needs in the future

Regulation	Description	Next Steps
O. Reg. 146/20	Limiting work to a single long-term care homes	Sunset March 28 th
O. Reg. 77/20	Work deployment measures in long-term care homes	Sunset April 27 th
O. Reg. 210/20	Management of long-term care homes in outbreak	Sunset April 27 th - The Ministry is exploring the use of transitional regulations that could be created under the new Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 (FLTCA, targeted for an April proclamation date) to support homes through transition where such provisions not already included in the proposed regulations.
O. Reg. 95/20	Streamlined requirements for long-term care homes	

In addition, all **Directives issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health** will be rescinded as of April 27th.

- MLTC is reviewing relevant Directives with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure any required provisions or guidance (for example, related to masking) are maintained through Ministry mechanisms after this date.

Thank you

Should you have any further questions please email us at:

MLTCpandemicresponse@ontario.ca