



May 3, 2021

Single Work Site Requirement for Health Care Workers

From the beginning of the COVID-19 global pandemic, long-term care homes and retirement homes have been identified as a priority setting for enhanced precaution and measures to protect vulnerable residents who are at the highest risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19. This included the requirement under [Ontario regulation \(O.Reg. \)146/20](#) for long-term care homes and O. Reg. 158/20 for retirement homes, to limit staff to a single location as of April 2020. In addition to this requirement, Dr. Wajid Ahmed, Medical Officer of Health for Windsor-Essex recommended the restriction of *all* healthcare workers to a single work location to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Recently the provincial government has amended O.Reg 146/20 and O.Reg 158/20, as well as made updates to [Directive #3](#) for Long-Term Care Homes under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 and [Directive #2](#) for Health Care Providers. Significant changes included amendments to the outbreak definition of long-term care and retirement homes as well as change to the limit on work. These regulations must be considered in conjunction with rules and requirements set out under the applicable regulation of the Reopening Ontario Act (currently [O.Reg 82/20](#)) for all businesses and workplaces that are open, including the recommendations and instruction of the Medical Officer of Health.

Given the on-going identification of positive COVID-19 cases occurring within the community, and the increasing number of Variant of Concern COVID-19 infections being identified, as Medical Officer of Health for Windsor-Essex, ***I am directing staff of Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes to continue working at one Long-Term Care Home or Retirement Home regardless of COVID-19 immunization status. My direction/instruction also applies to all health workers, whereby they should limit their work to a single location.***

Sincerely,



Dr. Wajid Ahmed, MBBS, MAS, MSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health