

**Ministry of Long-Term Care**

Office of the Associate Deputy  
Minister, Long-Term Care Policy  
and Pandemic Response

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**Ministère des Soins de longue durée**

Bureau du sous-ministre associée  
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pandémie pour les soins de longue durée

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Toronto ON M5G 1S5



April 20, 2022

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

**FROM:** Erin Hannah  
Associate Deputy Minister  
LTC Policy and Pandemic Response

**SUBJECT:** New Minister's Directive on COVID-19 response  
measures

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I am writing to inform you of a new Minister's Directive on COVID-19 response measures for long-term care homes ("Minister's Directive") that is being issued under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 (FLTCA)*.

This Minister's Directive has been developed to ensure the ability to maintain critical components of Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Directive 3 and Directive 5, once those are rescinded, as well as to consolidate the requirements of the [Minister's Directive: COVID-19 – Long-term care home surveillance testing and access to homes](#) into a single directive. **This new Minister's Directive will come into effect on April 27<sup>th</sup>** and will replace the surveillance testing directive, which will be revoked effective the same day.

Continuing with strong infection prevention and control (IPAC) practices remains of utmost importance as the Omicron subvariant (BA.2) moves through communities. The Minister's Directive was developed in consultation with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and informed by feedback from sector partners. It will maintain requirements for core public health measures, with detailed requirements included in the [COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario](#). An updated guidance document will be shared in the near future and will continue to include cross references to CMOH directives as appropriate.

The new *Minister's Directive: COVID-19 response measures for long-term care homes*, which is attached and will be available online in English and French shortly, includes the following key components:

- IPAC practices, including requirements for an outbreak preparedness plan, masking, distancing and environmental cleaning

- Personal protective equipment
- Cohorting for staff, students, volunteers and residents
- Case and outbreak management
- Accommodations, including requirements for admissions and transfers, isolation rooms, general accommodations and ward rooms
- Absences
- Visitors
- Asymptomatic screen testing
- COVID-19 screening
- Reporting

**Please note this new directive does not change any of the current measures that are in place right now.** It will become the new authority for required measures within long-term care homes, along with the details in the relevant guidance documents effective April 27, 2022.

Information webinars on the above updates have been scheduled for the sector on Monday April 25, 2022 from 2:00-2:30pm as well as Tuesday April 26, 2022 from 11:30am-12:00pm. Both webinars will consist of the same content, providing flexibility in choice to attend one or the other. To join, please click the links below at the time of the webinar:

- Monday April 25 @ 2:00pm: [here](#)
- Tuesday April 26 @ 11:30am: [here](#)

Thank you for your continued commitment to optimizing safety in long-term care homes for residents, their families, and your teams, and for your partnership as we continue to work through the evolving pandemic. As always, should you have questions you may contact us at [MLTCPandemicResponse@ontario.ca](mailto:MLTCPandemicResponse@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Erin Hannah  
Associate Deputy Minister

c: Nancy Matthews, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)  
Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health (MOH)  
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery Division, Ministry of Health (MOH)  
Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Capacity Planning and Analytics Division, MOH/MLTC  
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

Jeff Butler, Assistant Deputy Minister, LTC Operations Division, MLTC  
Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health  
Cynthia Martineau, CEO, Home and Community Care Support Services