

April 20, 2022

Minister's Directive: COVID-19 response measures for long-term care homes

FAQs

1. What is the purpose of this Minister's Directive?

In anticipation of the future revocation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health's (CMOH) directives, the Minister of Long-Term Care is issuing a new Minister's Directive on COVID-19 response measures for long-term care homes ("Minister's Directive") under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 (FLTCA)*. This Minister's Directive has been developed in consultation with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) to maintain critical components of CMOH Directive 3 and Directive 5, once those are rescinded, as well as to consolidate the requirements of the [Minister's Directive: COVID-19: Long-term care home surveillance testing and access to homes](#) into a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.

2. When does this Minister's Directive come into effect? How does it work?

The new Minister's Directive will come into effect on April 27th. The Minister's Directive on surveillance testing is revoked as of this day as these requirements have been merged into the new directive and relevant guidance document. The new Minister's Directive lays out specific topics such as masking, personal protective equipment, isolation rooms and ward rooms. In some instances, the Minister's Directive references Ministry of Long-Term Care and Ministry of Health Guidance Documents for more details on the specific requirements. Those specific requirements will include cross references to CMOH directives if / where appropriate.

3. How will the requirements of this Directive evolve with the changing status of COVID-19?

The Minister's Directive supports the ability to adapt to the changing landscape of COVID-19 on an ongoing basis. The Minister's Directive refers to detailed requirements in Ministry of Long-Term Care and Ministry of Health Guidance Documents that will be updated based on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in the sector and the latest scientific evidence and expert public health advice.