

COUNTY OF RENFREW

LONG-TERM CARE REPORT ADDENDUM

TO: Health Committee

FROM: Mike Blackmore, Director of Long-Term Care

DATE: February 9, 2022

SUBJECT: Department Report

INFORMATION

11. COVID-19 Pandemic Update – Long-Term Care (Strategic Plan Goal #3)

On December 28, 2021, the Ministry introduced additional temporary enhanced measures for long-term care homes (LTCHs), specifically pausing general visitors and social day absences (initial measures were put in place earlier in December including keeping the number of caregivers visiting a resident at one time to a maximum of two).

The Ministry has worked with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) to plan for the gradual easing of temporary enhanced measures currently in place. This plan is in the context of the broader reopening Ontario approach announced by the province in January and is also contingent on the absence of concerning trends in public health and health care indicators over the coming weeks. It is within this context of a cautious and phased approach that the Ministry plans:

On February 7, 2022:

- Increasing the maximum number of designated caregivers per resident from 2 to 4 (unless designated before December 15th). Continue with limit of 2 visitors (currently only caregivers) at a time per resident.
- Resuming social day absences for residents who have had at least three COVID-19 vaccine doses, while supporting these residents with information about the benefits of limiting contact with others, including avoiding large social gatherings, following masking and physical

distancing as much as possible, and only being in close contact with people who have had three COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Targeting February 21, 2022 to:

- Resume all general visitors 5 years and older who have had at least two COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- Children under 5 years of age would continue to be restricted from entering a long-term care home, except for infants 12 months or younger.
- Increase limits on the number of visitors (including caregivers) that may visit a resident at one time to 3.
- Caregivers must have at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to enter the home and be fully vaccinated as of February 21, 2022. Proof of a third dose is required by March 14, 2022 (only if eligible on or after March 14).
- Residents who have had at least three COVID-19 vaccine doses may resume social day absences. However, homes should encourage residents to:
 - limit their contact with others, including avoiding large social gatherings, and
 - physically distance and only be in close contact with people who have had three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, especially when eating.

With the resumption of general visitors into the homes, this will also allow for the resumption of adult day programs, entertainers and personal care services (where the person is not a staff member) in the homes. Social group activities should remain as small groups (i.e., up to 10).

Targeting March 14, 2022 to:

- Resume visits by general visitors under 5 years old. No vaccination requirement for those under the age of 5.
- Increase limit on the number of visitors (including caregivers) at a time per resident to 4.
- Allow social overnight absences for all residents regardless of vaccination status. Surveillance testing requirements per the most recent testing directive dated December 17, 2021 for all staff, caregivers and visitors continue to be in place.

Updates to the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes (LTCHs) and Retirement Homes (RHs) for Public Health Units are summarized as follows:

- Updated confirmed outbreak definition
 - Two or more tested and confirmed (staff/resident/other visitor) cases in a home with reasonable evidence they were acquired within the home in a 10-day period; and
 - There is a risk of transmission to residents within the home.
- Updates to the Management of Contacts section:
 - Definition of higher risk contacts and lower risk contacts
 - Details for how to identify and manage contacts
- Additional guidance provided on cohorting during outbreaks
- Clarity on admissions and transfers, particularly for admitting/transferring residents to a home with an outbreak
- Algorithms included for admissions, transfers, and managing contacts in LTCHs and RHs.

Dr. Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit rescinded the Class Order made pursuant to Section 22 (5.0.1) of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter H.7 made December 22, 2021. However, Bonnechere Manor remains in outbreak status and will follow the following directives from RCDHU:

- 1) General visitors are not permitted when a home is in outbreak or to visit an isolating resident (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-guidance-document-long-term-care-homes-ontario#section-12>)
- 2) Volunteers are permitted in the facility provided they are vaccinated x3 (if eligible), have been trained and are able to wear PPE, complete surveillance testing and screening prior to entry and are aware of the risk of entering a facility in an ongoing outbreak.
- 3) Essential Caregivers (ECGs) are limited to 2 per resident at a time, unless the resident is isolating or symptomatic. An ECG should not visit any other home after visiting a home in outbreak or a resident who is isolating.
- 4) Social outings and absences are limited to only essential absences such as medical absences and compassionate and palliative absences, while the home is in outbreak. As the outbreak comes under control and units are able to be withdrawn from outbreak, residents of those units can resume other social outings and absences. Returning as per the isolation and

testing requirements for residents returning from absences
(<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-guidance-document-long-term-care-homes-ontario#section-11>)

12. **Additional COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding for 2021-22**

The Ministry of Long-Term Care announced \$328.7 million in additional COVID-19 prevention and containment funding for the remainder of the 2021-22 fiscal year. The funding includes up to \$277 million to support additional costs associated with enhanced measures required to prevent and contain outbreaks in 2021-22 and up to \$51.7 million to homes with outstanding funding shortfalls incurred in 2020-21.

The \$277 million of the total funding will flow to eligible long-term care (LTC) homes as follows:

- \$201,982,800 will be provided to every eligible licensee of a LTC home with baseline funding of \$20,000 per month and an additional \$700 per bed per month over January to March 2022.
- \$45 million will be provided to homes with outstanding funding shortfalls for 2020-21. The allocation reflects the difference between the total prevention and containment funding provided for 2020-21 and the updated total expenditures reported in the Supplemental Reporting for 2020-21 COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Expenditures.
- The remaining funding will be provided after the Ministry receives additional financial reporting from the sector as outlined below.
- Homes are required to complete the 2021-22 Q1-Q3 COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Expenditures Report as well as review and restate their 2020-21 COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Expenditures by February 18, 2022.
- Funding allocated for the 2021-22 fiscal year is intended to support eligible prevention and containment expenses incurred from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. If the funding provided during 2021-22 is not spent by March 31, 2022, it will be recovered based on interim reporting on prevention and containment expenditures and/or at the time of the 2022 annual reconciliation.