

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Office of the Deputy Minister

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**Ministère des Soins de longue
durée**

Bureau du sous-ministre

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May 31, 2020

Dear Long-Term Care Home Licensees:

Re: COVID-19 Testing for Long-Term Care Home Staff

The Ministry of Long-Term Care (the “Ministry”) has been closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in the province’s Long-Term Care (LTC) homes. Further to the memo sent on April 21, 2020, the province has completed surveillance testing of LTC home residents and staff.

Continued testing of staff is an important part of the ongoing strategy to keeping long-term care residents safe. As a result, the province will require continued surveillance testing of LTC home staff effective immediately. It is intended that all LTC home staff be tested, at reasonable intervals, a minimum twice in the month of June. If homes wish to test their staff more frequently, they should advise the Ontario Health COVID-19 Testing Implementation Team at the email below. LTC homes should continue testing residents based on [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance](#).

Testing for LTC home staff will include all individuals working in the LTC home (e.g., front-line workers, management, food-service workers, contracted service providers, etc.). Testing should be conducted by the LTC home, where possible. If testing by the home is not feasible, homes are asked to work with their established regional contact at Ontario Health to identify alternative approaches. All homes should continue reporting on testing activities to Ontario Health.

As you get started, please email the Ontario Health COVID-19 Testing Implementation Team at covid19testing@ontariohealth.ca for further support with logistics.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to improving the quality of long-term care in Ontario.

Sincerely,

(ORIGINAL SIGNED BY)

Richard Steele
Deputy Minister of Long-Term Care

(ORIGINAL SIGNED BY)

Matthew Anderson
President & CEO, Ontario Health

c:

- Ms. Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division
- Mr. Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Operations Division
- Ms. Donna Duncan, Ontario Long Term Care Association
- Ms. Lisa Levin, AdvantAge Ontario
- Mr. Dan Kaniuk, Chair, Board of Directors, Ontario Long-Term Care Association
- Ms. Jane Sinclair, Chair, Board of Directors, Advantage Ontario
- Ms. Catherine Brown, President, Shared Services, Ontario Health
- Dr. Dirk Huyer, Chief Coroner for Ontario
- Ms. Olha Dobush, Executive Lead, LTC Stabilization