

Ministry of Health

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April 17, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief Executive Officers of Ontario Public Hospitals

FROM: Helen Angus
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson
President & CEO, Ontario Health

Richard Steele
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care

Dr. Barbara Yaffe
Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health

RE: **Hospital Supports for Long-Term Care**

The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC), and Ontario Health (OH) are requesting the assistance of hospitals to support Ontario's long-term care (LTC) homes during our COVID-19 response by voluntarily identifying staffing resources that can provide infection prevention and control (IPAC) assistance, medication administration, along with nursing and personal support worker staffing for homes facing critical staffing shortages.

To facilitate the deployment of hospital staff into LTC homes, no new regulatory changes are required. Given resources are being voluntarily identified, hospitals will enter into agreements with LTC homes whereby staff would be seconded and by extension maintain their employment status with the hospital.

Public Health has confirmed that hospital workers who complete shifts within a LTC home can work in multiple locations. Further, hospital workers deployed to a LTC home in an outbreak can return to their home facility and self-monitor for symptoms if asymptomatic and appropriate IPAC precautions were followed, with no breaches in PPE use. If there have been breaches in PPE or the staff is symptomatic/being tested for COVID-19, the staff must self-isolate for 14 days from last exposure (or at least 24 hours symptom-free if symptomatic).

Once hospitals have identified the resources they can offer, we are asking hospitals to notify their OH regional leads who will coordinate the connecting of hospitals with the MLTC response teams. This will enable OH and MLTC to facilitate local response and identify regional resources that may be deployed throughout an OH region.

In follow up, the Ontario Hospital Association will issue support materials to its members.

In the coming days, we may also seek hospital assistance related to further support in retirement and congregate care settings. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our COVID-19 response.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Helen Angus
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson
President & CEO
Ontario Health

Richard Steele
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Long-Term Care

Dr. Barbara Yaffe
Associate Chief
Medical Officer of
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c: Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Anthony Dale, President & CEO, Ontario Hospital Association
Donna Duncan, President & CEO, Ontario Long Term Care Association
Ontario Health, Regional Leads