

July 6, 2020

Dear Long-Term Care Home Licensees:

Re: Additional COVID Prevention and Containment Funding

This letter is further to the recent letter from the Honourable Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care, informing you that the Ministry of Long-Term Care (“the Ministry”) will be providing additional one-time emergency funding to the long-term care home (LTC) sector of up to \$88,340,000 to support the efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The next tranche of disbursement of up to \$44,314,800 will be flowed to licensees of eligible LTC homes as outlined below. Again, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to the representatives from AdvantAge Ontario and the Ontario Long-Term Care Association for their input in informing the allocation process.

- Every eligible LTC home will receive a baseline funding of \$12,000 and \$200 per bed to support the necessary incremental expenditures of long-term care homes to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Homes with B, C and/or D beds will receive additional funding to address prevention and containment challenges due to the older physical structure and living spaces within the homes. Small homes with 96 beds or fewer will receive an additional baseline funding of \$15,000 and homes with 97 beds or more will receive an additional baseline funding of \$10,000.
- Homes with COVID-19 outbreaks are expected to incur more costs as more efforts are needed for further prevention and containment. Based on feedback from sector representatives this funding has been increased to \$10,000 per home and \$300 per bed. This adjustment applies to all homes with COVID-19 infection reported or resolved as of June 15th, 2020. The additional per bed funding applies to all beds in operation.

Please review the Appendix: Additional Emergency COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding Summary to identify the estimated funding for your home.

Eligible homes are every home whose licensee is party to a Letter of Agreement for Ministry Direct Funding to Long-Term Care Homes (Direct Funding Agreement, or DFA) with the Ministry in respect of the applicable LTC home. This letter sets out the applicable Ministry policy with respect to this tranche of this transfer payment funding program for the purposes of Schedule A of the DFA.

Eligible expenses include extraordinary operating expenses incurred by the LTC licensee in respect of the LTC home as a result of COVID-19, such as increased extraordinary costs associated with:

- Providing immediate 24/7 health screening to ensure staff and visitors are not ill when entering the building, and to screen residents on an ongoing basis to provide early containment of any new infections.
- Prevention and containment activities, through hiring new staff to carry-out the added workload for essential services and/or replacing workers who are sick or in isolation.
- Staffing recruitment and retention strategies (e.g. over-time pay, additional costs of converting part-time staff to full-time, costs of back-filling staff on sick leave).
- Cleaning, equipment, and operating supplies beyond typical levels for the home.
- Implementing infection control measures based on clinical evidence, advice from a physician or other regulated health practitioners with expertise in infection control.
- Supporting virtual care and services for residents and staff.
- Providing hotel or other accommodation to some staff to assist them in reducing travel or exposure to their families.
- Any other incremental expenditures required for the rapid response to prevent and contain COVID-19 in the home.

This additional funding is intended to financially support the necessary incremental expenses and provide flexibility to prevent and contain COVID-19 and **is not limited to specific expenditure categories.**

We recognize that actual costs will vary across homes depending on a variety of local circumstances and the nature of the spread of the virus. This funding will be reconciled through a separate line in Section I Part A of the LTCH Annual Reconciliation Report at the end of the applicable year, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this letter and the LTCH Annual Report Technical Instructions and Guidelines. We will also consult with your representatives and provide further directions on any in-year reporting that may be required to support the allocation process to ensure that funding is provided in accordance with need and other accountability requirements.

We are currently exploring opportunities to provide further support to the sector in managing the impacts of COVID-19. I anticipate continuing to work with sector representatives and will provide further information to you as soon as it becomes available.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the ministry by e-mail at LTC.Info@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication, as we continue to work together to implement enhanced measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care homes.

Sincerely,



Janet Hope
Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Policy Division
Ministry of Long-Term Care

Enclosure

c:

Mr. Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care

Mr. Peter Kaftarian, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services Division

Mr. Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Capital Development Division

Mr. Jim Yuill, Director, Financial Management Branch, Corporate Services Division

Mr. Michael Robertson, Director, Long-Term Care Response Branch, Long-Term Care Policy Division

Mr. William Hatanaka, Board Chair, Ontario Health

Ms. Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long-Term Care Home Association

Ms. Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario