

**Ministry of Long-Term Care**  
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**Ministère des Soins de longue durée**  
Sous-ministre adjointe  
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January 21, 2021

Dear Long-Term Care Home Licensees:

**Re: Additional COVID-19 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 of additional funding to long-term care homes to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

The Government of Ontario is providing additional emergency funding of up to \$153,004,800 to support eligible long-term care homes to help with prevention and containment efforts.

This investment reflects \$102,497,600 allocated for a one-time funding adjustment to address the funding shortfall reported by long-term care homes in the Q1 Interim Financial Report on Incremental Costs for the 2020-21 fiscal year and up to \$50,507,200 allocated for the ninth tranche of prevention and containment funding. The funding shortfall represents the difference between incremental funding allocated to eligible long-term care homes and the actual incremental expenses incurred for prevention and containment efforts as reported from April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

In addition to the one-time funding adjustment, the ninth tranche of funding will be flowed to licensees of eligible long-term care homes using the same approach as used in previous disbursements issued during this fiscal year:

- Every eligible long-term care home will receive baseline funding of \$12,000 and \$200 per bed to support necessary incremental expenditures to help 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 those homes. Small homes with 96 or fewer beds will receive additional baseline funding of \$15,000. Homes with 97 or more beds will receive additional baseline funding of \$10,000.
- It is anticipated that homes with active and resolved COVID-19 outbreaks will incur more expenses to support further prevention and containment efforts. In recognition of those efforts, all homes with a COVID-19 outbreak reported or resolved as of December 20, 2020, will receive an additional \$10,000 per home and \$300 per bed. The additional per-bed funding applies to all beds in operation.

Please review the attached appendix, *Additional COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding Summary*, to see the breakdown of the funding allocated for your long-term care home.

Eligible long-term care homes are those homes whose licensee is party to a Letter of Agreement for Ministry Direct Funding to Long-Term Care Homes (DFA) with the ministry. This letter sets out the applicable Ministry of Long-Term Care policy for these tranches of transfer payment funding under Schedule A of the DFA.

Consistent with previous disbursements issued during this fiscal year, eligible expenses as a result of COVID-19 include extraordinary operating expenses incurred by the long-term care licensee to support the long-term care home that it holds a licence to operate, for:

- immediate 24/7 health screening to ensure staff and visitors are not ill when entering the home, and to screen residents on an ongoing basis to support early containment of any new infections;
- prevention and containment activities, such as hiring new staff to carry out the added workload for essential services and/or to replace workers who are sick or in isolation;
- staffing recruitment and retention strategies (e.g., overtime pay, additional costs to convert part-time staff to full-time, costs to backfill 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 care practitioners with expertise in infection control;
- supporting virtual care and services for residents and staff;
- providing hotel or other accommodation to some staff to help them reduce travel or potential exposure to their families; or
- any other incremental costs required for a rapid response to prevent and contain COVID-19 in the home.

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

The Ministry of Long-Term Care will be requesting homes to provide additional quarterly interim financial reporting in future communications. The data collected will inform the disbursement approach for the remaining months of the 2020-21 fiscal year. The Ministry of Long-Term Care asks that long-term care homes maintain detailed financial records for all incremental costs incurred as they may be subject to an audit.

Funding provided during the 2020-21 fiscal year (i.e. from April 2020 to March 2021) that is not spent by March 31, 2021 will be recovered as part of the 2021 reconciliation. For further clarity, funding will be reconciled through a separate entry in Section I, Part A of the Long-Term Care Homes Annual Reconciliation Report at the end of the applicable year, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this letter, including the *Long-Term Care Homes Annual Report Technical Instructions and Guidelines* and as outlined below:

- The total cost for all eligible goods and services, purchased between April 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, and received by December 31, 2020 will need to be reported in a separate section, Section I, Part A of the 2020 LTC Home Annual Report.
- The costs shall NOT be reported in Sections C through F and Section I, Part B of the 2020 LTC Home Annual Report.
- The Ministry of Long-Term Care will add the costs reported in Section I, Part A of the 2020 LTC Home Annual Report to eligible costs reported in Section I, Part A of the 2021 LTC Home Annual Report for all eligible goods and services purchased between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021 and received by March 31, 2021.
- The sum of the costs reported in both the 2020 and 2021 LTCH Annual Reports will be reconciled against the 2020-21 funding and any unspent funds will be recovered as part of the 2021 reconciliation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges across the health and long-term care sectors. Since the outset, the Ontario government has been consistently monitoring the developing situation to protect the health and well-being of residents and staff in long-term care homes.

We will continue to work closely with our long-term care sector stakeholder partners to explore additional funding opportunities. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact the Ministry of Long-Term Care by e-mail at [LTC.Info@ontario.ca](mailto:LTC.Info@ontario.ca).

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

Sincerely,



Sheila Bristo  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Long-Term Care Operations Division  
Ministry of Long-Term Care

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

Ms. Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division

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

Ms. Abby Dwosh, Director, Funding and Programs Branch, Long-Term Care Operations  
Division

Mr. Bill Hatanaka, Board Chair, Ontario Health

Mr. Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health

Ms. Stephanie Lockert, Interim Lead Corporate Planning, Ontario Health

Mr. Elham Roushani, Chief Financial Officer, Ontario Health

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

Ms. Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario