

Ministry of Long-Term Care

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Ministère des Soins de longue durée

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October 17, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Stakeholders

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

SUBJECT: Impacted Areas from Long-Term Care Homes

As we continue to respond to the surge in cases of COVID-19, I would like to communicate recent updates regarding public health unit jurisdictions with higher community spread.

The Region of York has been identified as a public health unit with higher community spread. This is in addition to the City of Ottawa, the City of Toronto and the Region of Peel, which continue to be identified as public health units with higher community spread.

Effective October 19, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., residents in long-term care homes located in York Region are subject to the same restrictions as the previously identified areas with higher community spread of COVID-19:

- Residents are not permitted to leave on an absence except for medical or compassionate reasons.
- General visitors are not permitted. A maximum of one caregiver per resident may visit at a time, subject to direction from the local public health unit.

As a reminder, a caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker and who is visiting to provide direct care to the resident (e.g., supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity and assistance in decision-making).

Please visit the Ministry of Long-Term Care website for a list of jurisdictions with higher community spread at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-long-term-care-homes-in-areas-visitor-restrictions>.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to address the COVID-19 pandemic.



Sheila Bristo
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Long-Term Care

c:

Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care
Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division
Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Capital Development
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long-Term Care Association
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario