

**Ministry of Long-Term Care**

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Long-Term Care Operations

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November 24, 2020

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Long-Term Care Home Licensees

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

**SUBJECT:** **Invitation to Training Webinars Regarding Staff Testing in Long-Term Care Homes**

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Further to the communication from Deputy Minister Steele about the Updated Long-Term Care Sector Surveillance Strategy and the Minister's Directive, the Ministry of Long-Term Care, Public Health Ontario, and Ontario Health are providing training webinars and testing resources to support long-term care homes with staff testing in homes.

Training webinars will focus on:

- How to collect specimens from the nose and throat;
- How to complete an accurate requisition form; and
- How to properly package samples for transportation and COVID-19 testing.

The webinar will be provided live at the following times:

- Thursday November 26, 8:00 a.m. - [Register here.](#)
- Thursday November 26, 2:00 p.m. – [Register here.](#)
- Friday November 27, 10:00 a.m. – [Register here.](#)
- Friday November 27, 1:00 p.m. – [Register here.](#)

All webinars will cover the same information, hence only one webinar needs to be attended.

Webinars are targeted to staff responsible for testing program oversight, conducting specimen collection and preparing specimens for transportation and testing.

All responsible personnel involved in the staff testing program are expected to attend one of the above webinars. Webinars will also be recorded and shared with all long-term care homes.

Additionally, reference tools and documents will be provided to long-term care homes later this week.

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

Sincerely,

*(original signed by)*

Sheila Bristo  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care

c: Pierre Bou-Mansour, Chief Laboratory Operations Officer, Public Health Ontario  
Dr. Samir Patel, Deputy Chief, Microbiology and Laboratory Science, Public Health Ontario  
Katerina Podolak, Lead, COVID-19 Testing Implementation, Ontario Health  
Olha Dobush, Executive Lead, Long-Term Care Stabilization, Ministry of Long-Term Care  
Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care  
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Home Association  
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario  
Catherine Brown, Interim Executive Lead, Ontario Health  
Donna Cripps, Transitional Regional Lead (Central Region), Ontario Health  
Renato Discenza, Regional Transitional Lead (East Region), Ontario Health  
Brian Kytlor, Regional Transitional Lead (North Region), Ontario Health  
Tess Romain, Regional Transitional Lead (Toronto Central), Ontario Health  
Mark Walton, Regional Transitional Lead (West Region), Ontario Health  
Dr. Vanessa Allen, Public Health Ontario