

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Operations Division

11th Floor, 1075 Bay Street
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Tel.: 416 327-7461
Fax: 416 327-7603

Ministère des Soins de longue durée

Sous-ministre adjointe par intérim
Opérations relatives aux soins de longue durée

1075, rue Bay, 11^e étage
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Tél.: 416 327-7461
Téléc.: 416 327-7603



November 14, 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: **Update to the COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open**

As you may know, the Ontario government recently released the *COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open*. The new framework categorizes public health regions into five levels: Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, Orange-Restrict, Red-Control, and Lockdown being a measure of last and urgent resort.

The province has updated its visitor policy to address areas with higher community spread of COVID-19. Changes have been made to the types and number of visitors permitted in long-term care homes.

Effective as of October 7, 2020, where an area has been identified as having higher community spread, general visitors are not allowed. At present, only essential visitors, including up to one caregiver per resident, may visit homes in these regions:

- the City of Toronto
- the City of Ottawa
- York Region
- Peel Region

Effective Monday, November 16, at 12:01 a.m., the restrictions will also apply to the additional public health regions moving into the Orange-Restrict and Red-Control levels of the COVID-19 response [framework](#).

.../2

Caregivers are essential visitors who are designated by a resident or their substitute decision maker and who:

- provide direct care to residents, such as helping with feeding, mobility, hygiene, or cognitive stimulation
- are family members or friends, privately hired caregivers, paid companions and/or translators

Local public health may provide further direction on the types and numbers of visitors to the homes to ensure the health and safety of all residents, staff, and visitors. People planning a visit to a long-term care home are advised to contact the home in advance to make sure the home is free of outbreaks, and to get information on the home's visitor policy and any other restrictions.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

original signed by

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
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association
Catherine Brown, Interim Executive Lead, Ontario Health

Attachments: Ministry of Long-Term Care Covid-19 Visitor Policy
Frequently Asked Questions Covid-19 Visitor Policy