

November 24, 2020

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 \$47,407,000 million to the long-term care homes sector to help with prevention and containment efforts. The seventh tranche of funding will be flowed to licensees of eligible long-term care homes using the same approach as used in previous disbursements:

- 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 and homes with 97 or more beds will receive funding of \$10,000.
- Homes with COVID-19 outbreaks are expected to incur more costs to support further prevention and containment efforts. In recognition of those efforts, all homes with COVID-19 infection reported or resolved as of October 20, 2020, will receive an adjustment of \$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 Allocations Summary, to identify the estimated funding for your long-term care home for the seventh tranche of funding.

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 policy for these tranches of transfer payment funding under Schedule A of the DFA.

Consistent with previous disbursements, eligible expenses include extraordinary operating expenses incurred by the long-term care licensee to support the long-term care home as a result of COVID-19, for:

- 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 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 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
- Any other incremental costs required for the 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.

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 and in the Long-Term Care Homes Annual Report Technical Instructions and Guidelines.

The COVID-19 outbreak 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. The ministry is reviewing the incremental expenses reported by the sector and may use the results from the exercise to inform future disbursements.

We will continue to work closely with our sector stakeholder partners to explore additional funding opportunities. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact the ministry by e-mail at 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

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
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, Programs and Funding Branch, Long-Term Care Operations
Division
Mr. Michael Robertson, Director, Long-Term Care Response Branch, Long-Term Care
Policy 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 (CFO), Ontario Health
Ms. Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long-Term Care Home Association
Ms. Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario