

**Ministry of Long-Term Care**

Assistant Deputy Minister  
Long-Term Care Operations

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November 17, 2020

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Long-Term Care Homes

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

**SUBJECT:** **Respiratory Outbreak Testing Prioritization Protocol**

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I am writing to highlight the attached Protocol from Public Health Ontario. It is intended to clarify the required steps to ensure that outbreak specimens are prioritized for testing.

Please continue working collaboratively with your local public health units on any suspected or confirmed outbreaks, including the steps described in the attached Protocol to ensure that outbreak specimens are labelled and transported correctly and can be tested by Public Health Ontario laboratories as a priority.

Sincerely,

*(original signed by)*

Sheila Bristo  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Long-Term Care Operations Division

c:

Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care  
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association  
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario  
Brent Gingerich, Chair, Board of Directors, Ontario Long Term Care Association  
Jane Sinclair, Chair, Board of Directors, Advantage Ontario  
Catherine Brown, Interim Executive Lead, Ontario Health  
Olha Dobush, Executive Lead, LTC Stabilization, Ministry of Long-Term Care  
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health

**Attachments:**

- PHO Protocol: Respiratory Outbreak Testing Prioritization Protocol