

Ministry of Long-Term Care

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July 17, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Stakeholders

SUBJECT: Amendments to Emergency Order O. Reg. 95/20, under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*

As you are aware, on March 17, 2020, the Government of Ontario declared a state of emergency under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep people safe. Following, a number of emergency orders were put in place to protect people, workplaces and communities across the province. Now, the province has begun to reopen its economy in stages and is considering lifting the state of emergency declaration currently in effect until July 15, 2020.

Although the long-term care homes sector continues to stabilize, the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak are still being felt by long-term care homes. To ensure resident care and safety, the Ministry of Long-Term Care is taking a gradual approach to removing the temporary measures implemented in response to COVID-19. These measures include emergency orders under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and amendments to Ontario Regulation 79/10 under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act* (LTCHA).

Removing emergency orders and amendments to the regulation in phases will support long-term care homes as they continue to stabilize. As part of this gradual approach, the ministry is removing provisions in the emergency order (O.Reg. 95/20) for streamlining requirements.

The provision regarding the authority to take necessary measures is being removed to clarify that that the emergency order (O. Reg 95/20) streamlines requirements under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act* only in the specific areas identified in the order.

Reporting and documentation provisions and reverting to requirements under the LTCHA/Regulation are also being removed to:

- Ensure that the ministry receives adequate and necessary information regarding the operation of LTC homes, including resident safety issues
- Ensure changes to a resident's plan of care are more thoroughly documented and that residents receive appropriate care
- Support continuous improvement and compliance of LTC homes with the LTCHA and regulation.

Full details about these amendments can be found in the frequently-asked-questions document included with this package.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Licensing and Policy Branch of the Long-Term Care Operations Division at LTC.Info@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to address COVID-19. We remain committed to working with you to protect the health and safety of long-term care residents across our province.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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

c:

Mr. Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care
Mr. Sean Court, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Transformation, Ministry of Health
Mr. William Hatanaka, Board Chair, Ontario Health
Mr. Dan Kaniuk, Chair, Board of Directors, Ontario Long-Term Care Home Association
Ms. Jane Sinclair, Chair, Board of Directors, Advantage Ontario
Ms. Michelle-Ann Hylton, Director, Capital Planning Branch
Ms. Stacey Colameco, Director, Long-Term Care Inspections Branch
Ms. Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division

Attachments:

Frequently Asked Questions