

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Minimum Requirements for COVID-19 Testing in LTC Homes

Introduction

- This document outlines the minimum requirements for COVID-19 testing procedures and processes in LTC, **outside of enhanced surveillance testing.**
- As per the Chief Medical Officer of Health memo dated April 21, 2020, enhanced Surveillance Testing is to be conducted in Long-Term Care (LTC) homes across the province and coordinated by Local Public Health Units. **The enhanced surveillance testing (testing of all residents and staff) that is underway does not replace regular testing in the home based on screening.**
- Local Public Health Units will provide on-going support to LTC homes to facilitate testing.
- Information from this document is an extension of the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update](#) provided on April 8, 2020 and updated May 2, 2020. Further information regarding screening and testing can be found in the [COVID-19 Guidance in Long-Term Care.](#)
- This document is applicable for:
 - **Residents living in LTC homes and new/re-admissions into long-term care**
 - **Non-Residents (LTC home staff/others working in the home) and essential visitors**

Definitions and References

- **Symptomatic and Atypical symptoms for COVID-19:** defined in the Ministry of Health [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#).
- **Controlled Space:** a space where appropriate infection and prevention control measures are applied (IPAC). These are further described in Public Health Ontario's [COVID-19: Infection Prevention and Control Checklist for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes](#).
- **Surveillance Testing:** As per the Chief Medical Officer of Health memo dated April 21, 2020, surveillance testing is being conducted on all individuals in LTC homes across the province and coordinated by Local Public Health Units. This means on a one-time basis, all LTC residents and staff, regardless of whether they are displaying symptoms, will be tested. Memo can be found on www.ltchomes.net.
- **Screening and testing** information can be found in the [COVID-19 Guidance in Long-Term Care](#)
 - *Ministry of Health COVID-19 Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes* for the up-to-date screening tool and practices available on www.ltchomes.net.
 - The screening tool is not meant to replace the clinical assessment of a resident.
- **Specimen Collection** information can be found at the Public Health Ontario [website](#).

Guiding Principles

General Testing Principles

1. Collection of a specimen for testing of COVID-19 is a controlled act that can only be performed by a regulated health professional authorized to perform the act under their profession-specific legislation or where the controlled act has been appropriately delegated by an authorizer to another professional who has the knowledge, skill and judgement to safely perform the act.
 - LTC homes that require additional staffing support for testing purposes should contact local PHU for support.
2. Transportation of the collected specimen to the closest designated lab will be organized by the LTC home according to the [Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992](#).

Resident Testing Principles

1. The LTC home is responsible for testing residents and should work with their local Public Health Unit (PHU) for additional support, as required.
2. Test results for residents will be available for LTC homes as they are considered health information custodians that are entitled to rely on assumed implied consent.

Guiding Principles

Non-Resident Testing Principles

1. If the LTC home has the ability to place non-residents in isolation under contact and droplet precautions, testing can be conducted **within the LTC home**.
2. If the LTC home does not have the ability to place non-residents under contact and droplet precautions, the home is required to direct the non-resident to contact their primary care provider, telehealth or go to the nearest assessment center for testing and follow COVID-19 NON-RESIDENT Community Testing Protocol.
 - If the non-resident individual has been in a home which is under outbreak, the individual must provide an Outbreak Number from the LTC home while getting tested in the community.
 - Test results for a non-resident individual can only be obtained by the LTC home through the explicit consent of the individual. The PHU will consult with the LTC Home for contact tracing purposes. Where there is an outbreak in the home and the testing is being completed as part of the outbreak management, results of testing associated with the outbreak would be sent to the PHU.
 - Under the Emergency Order *O. Reg. 77/20 – Work deployment measures in long-term care homes* – LTC Homes can require the provision of and collection of information from staff or contractors about their likely or actual exposure to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Long-Term Care Testing & Isolation Protocols

COVID-19 Long-Term Care Testing & Isolation Protocol: Residents

To be tested



Symptomatic resident with one or more COVID-19 symptoms

Staff identify and contact individuals exposed to the symptomatic resident within the LTC home in the last 48 hours. Exposed contacts should be tested based on the symptomatic or asymptomatic testing process.



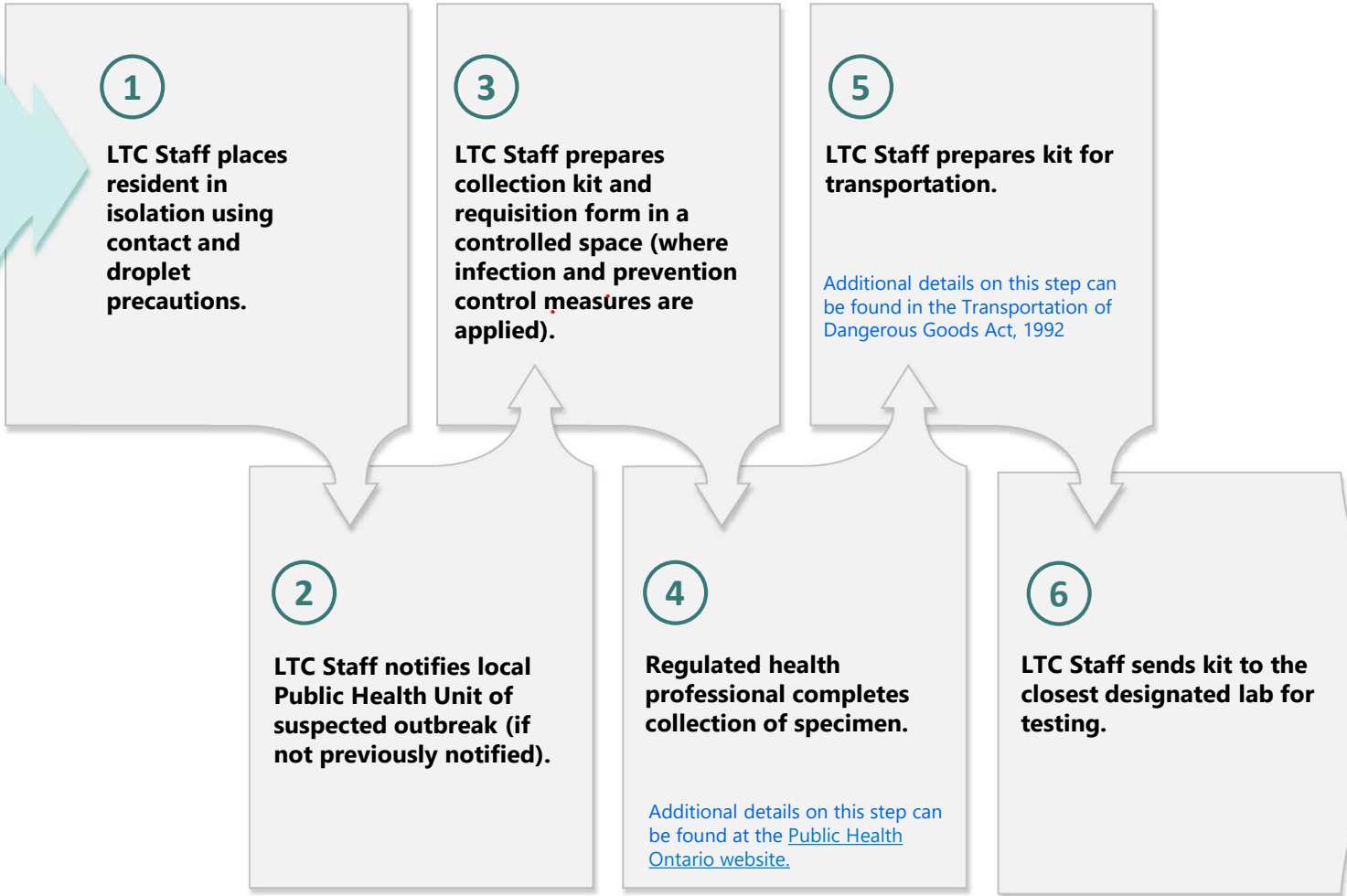
Asymptomatic resident that may have been exposed to a confirmed positive case



Asymptomatic New or readmission resident and residents returning from hospital

Staff place resident in isolation for 14 days upon admission or readmission to LTC home and follow testing process.

Testing process



Test results

Refer to the *Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes Document* for testing guidance and treatment protocols.

COVID-19 Long-Term Care Testing & Isolation Protocol: Non-Resident Staff Testing at the LTC Home

To be tested



- Long-term care home staff
- Physicians
- Agency staff

that did not pass screening protocol at the start or end of a shift or visit.

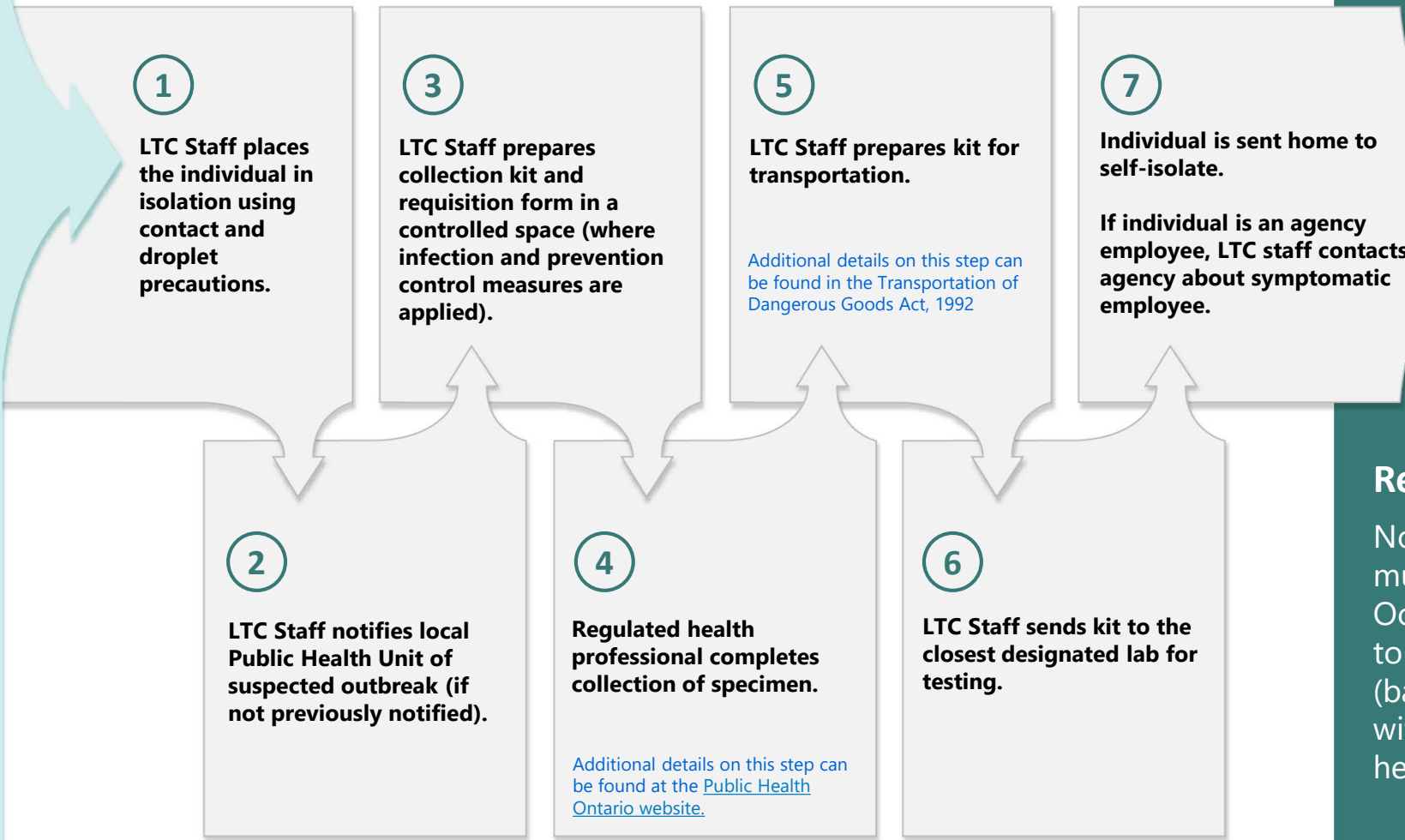


Anyone who does not pass the screening for COVID-19 **must not** enter into the LTC home unless the Home is equipped to perform the tests under isolation and using contact and droplet precautions. They must notify the LTC home and follow the Non-Resident Testing in the Community process.

Along with symptom screening protocol, each non-resident must:

- Be provided and wear a mask
- Follow COVID-19 preventative precautions

Testing process



Test results

Refer to the *Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes Document* for testing guidance and treatment protocols.

Return to LTC home

Non-Resident individual must report to LTC Occupational Health prior to returning to LTC home (based on consultations with Public Health and their health care provider).

COVID-19 Long-Term Care Testing & Isolation Protocol: Non-Resident Testing in the Community

To be tested



- Long-term care home staff
- Essential visitors
- Physicians
- Agency staff

that did not pass screening protocol at the start or end of a shift or visit.

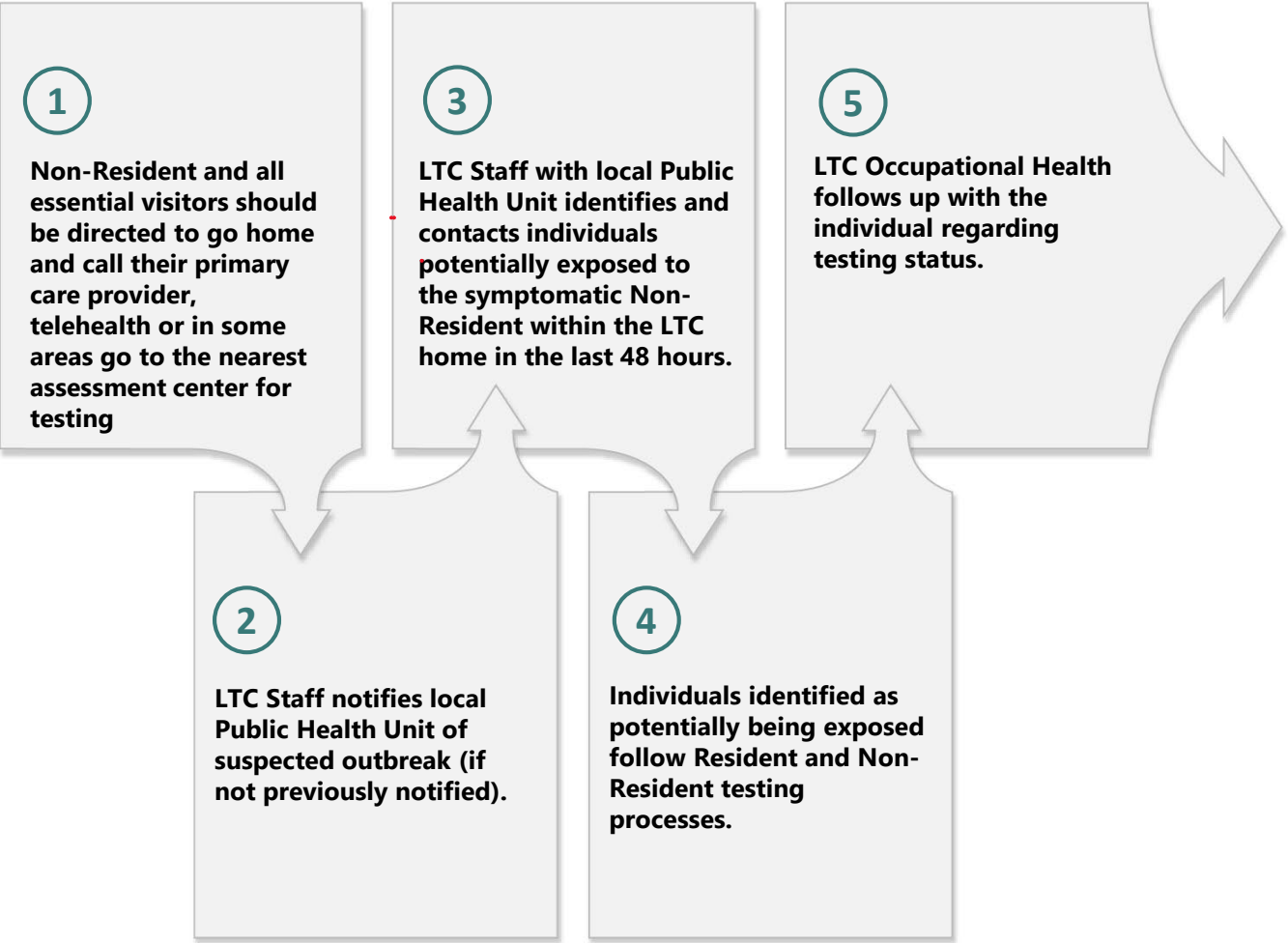


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Testing process



Test results

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Return to LTC home

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Appendix A

- The following performing/reporting facilities are currently accepting COVID-19 specimens for testing, as of April 27, 2020.
- **Local Public Health Units** are responsible to identify the closest designated testing facility for a LTC Home.

Alexandra Hospital
Alexandra Marine and General Hospital
Alpha Laboratories Incorporated
Bingham Memorial Hospital
Brant Community Healthcare System Laboratory
Cambridge Memorial Hospital
Campbellford Memorial Hospital
Chapleau General Hospital
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Collingwood General and Marine Hospital
Cornwall Community Hospital/Hopital communautaire de Cornwall - McConnell Site
Englehart and District Hospital Incorporated
Espanola General Hospital
GAMMA-DYNACARE MEDICAL LABORATORIES
Georgian Bay General Hospital - Midland Site
Glengarry Memorial Hospital
Halton Healthcare Services Corporation - Georgetown Campus
Halton Healthcare Services Corporation - Milton site
Halton Healthcare Services Corporation - Oakville site
Health Sciences North
Hopital General de Hawkesbury and District General Hospital Inc.
Hopital Montfort
Humber River Hospital
Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance - Clinton Site

Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance - St. Marys Site
Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance - Stratford Site
Kingston General Hospital
Kirkland and District Hospital
Lady Dunn Health Centre
Lady Minto Hospital
Lakeridge Health Ajax-Pickering
Lakeridge Health Bowmanville
Lakeridge Health Oshawa
Lakeridge Health Port Perry
LENNOX AND ADDINGTON COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL
LifeLabs
Listowel Memorial Hospital
London Health Sciences Centre - University Hospital
London Health Sciences Centre - Victoria Hospital
Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital
Manitoulin Health Centre
Markham Stouffville Hospital
Mount Sinai Hospital
North York General Hospital
Northumberland Hills Hospital
Notre-Dame Hospital
Pembroke Regional Hospital Inc.
Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital - Perth Site
Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital - Smiths Falls Site
Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Hospital Drive Site
Providence Care Hospital

Appendix A (con't)

Queensway-Carleton Hospital Laboratory
Quinte Health Care - Belleville Hospital
Renfrew Victoria Hospital
Ross Memorial Hospital
Royal Victoria Hospital Laboratory
Scarborough and Rouge Hospital - Birchmount Site
Scarborough and Rouge Hospital - Centenary Site
Scarborough and Rouge Hospital - General Site
Smooth Rock Falls Hospital
South Huron Hospital
Southlake Regional Health Centre
St. Joseph's Centre for Ambulatory Health Services
St. Joseph's General Hospital
St. Joseph's Health Care London
St. Joseph's Healthcare
St. Michael's Hospital
St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital
Stevenson Memorial Hospital
Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital
THE CREDIT VALLEY HOSPITAL

The Hospital For Sick Children
The Ottawa Hospital - Civic Campus
The Ottawa Hospital - General Site
The Ottawa Hospital - Riverside Campus
Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital
Timmins and District Hospital
Toronto General Hospital
Trillium Health Centre - Mississauga
Valley Laboratory Program - Arnprior Site
Valley Laboratory Program - Carleton Place
Valley Laboratory Program - Kemptville
West Nipissing General Hospital
William Osler Health System - Brampton Civic Hospital
William Osler Health System - Etobicoke General Hospital
William Osler Health System - Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health
and Wellness
Winchester District Memorial Hospital
Woodstock General Hospital