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Ministry of Long-Term Care**Ministère des Soins de longue durée**

Director
Long-Term Care Inspections Branch
Long-Term Care Operations Division

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DATE: December 22, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Licensees
Long-Term Care Home Administrators
Long-Term Care Home Directors of Nursing and Personal Care

FROM: Brad Robinson
Acting Director, Long-Term Care Inspections Branch

RE: **Physical distancing during congregated events**

As we approach the holiday season and with the continued presence and spread of COVID-19 in long-term care homes, we must take the necessary steps to minimize the spread.

While the vast majority of homes have been following this guidance, given the desire to provide opportunities to get together during the holidays, I would like to draw your attention to the guidance provided around physical distancing during **communal dining** and any other **activities** where staff and residents are commingling.

- In homes where communal dining must continue, the home must develop dining shifts and maintain physical distancing (>2 meters) in the dining room to reduce potential exposures. Environmental cleaning should also be undertaken between shifts and, as appropriate, during dining shifts.
- Modify internal activities to promote adherence to physical distancing measure for residents and among staff.

Please refer to the COVID-19 Outbreak Guidance for Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH), issued April 15, 2020 for further guidance on maintaining physical distancing during these congregated events: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/LTCH_outbreak_guidance.pdf.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing dedication to the health and safety of long-term care home residents and staff.

Regards,

(Original signed by)

Brad Robinson

c: Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long-Term Care Association

Monika Turner, Director of Policy, Association of Municipalities Ontario
Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, Association of Municipalities Ontario