

Ministry of Long-Term Care	Ministère des Soins de longue durée
Director	Directrice
Long-Term Care Inspections Branch	Inspection de soins de longue durée
Long-Term Care Operations Division	Division des opérations de soins de longue durée
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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 congregate events**

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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 congregate events:  
[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/LTCH\\_outbreak\\_guidance.pdf](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)*

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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