

FAQs: MLTC Minister's Directive

Q1. What does this Minister's Directive direct LTC homes to do?

A1. All long-term care homes in outbreak are directed to work with Ontario Health to consider the need for assistance in the long-term care home. LTC homes are also directed to provide entry to federal government resources –hospital staff including IPAC team members – and to allow them to provide direction or services in relation to infection control or resident care as required. LTC homes are to work collaboratively with these staff or other personnel and are to complete directed activities.

Q2. Why do we need to do this?

A2. While the actions that Ontario is taking to contain the COVID-19 outbreak are making a difference in the province as a whole, the long-term care sector continues to face significant challenges due to the vulnerability of residents and other factors. Several homes that have had COVID-19 outbreaks have been assessed as needing more help to care for their residents. High levels of staff absenteeism caused by illness and mental duress have exacerbated the situation.

Q3. Are all LTC homes covered by this Minister's Directive, or just the ones that are in outbreak?

A3. This Directive applies to every long-term care home in outbreak.

Q4. How long will this Minister's Directive be in place?

A4. This Minister's Directive is in effect April 24, 2020, and will remain in effect for the duration of the provincial emergency that was declared on March 17, 2020 under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. This declaration of emergency was last extended on April 14, 2020 and is currently in effect until May 12, 2020.

Q5. Will long-term care homes receive advance notice of a visit from a hospital or IPAC team?

A5. This is a collaborative effort and advance notice is expected.

Q6. Will long-term care home staff be expected to follow directions from hospital or IPAC team members? What should staff do if directions from their employer and the IPAC/hospital team conflict?

A6. Every licensee of a long-term care home in outbreak must ensure staff of the long-term care home take the direction of hospital supervisory and management staff as it relates to assessments in relation to the home's IPAC program, clinical supervision, and nursing and personal support services, including assistance with feeding residents of the long-term care home. This includes completing all directed activities in a timely and professional manner.

Q7. What should a long-term care home do if it does not have the resources needed to follow the guidance provided by the public hospital staff?

A7. Each home has been assigned a Regional Ontario Health contact and should contact this person.