

FACT SHEET:

Requirements in Ontario Regulation 79/10 regarding medical absences for long-stay residents during COVID-19

The Ministry of Long-Term Care (the “ministry”) would like to reiterate the following requirements for licensees outlined in Ontario Regulation 79/10 under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* with regards to medical absences:

If a long-stay resident is on a medical absence under 30 days:

- Ontario Regulation 79/10 requires licensees to ensure that when the resident returns from a medical absence under 30 days, the resident receives the same class of accommodation, the same room, and the same bed in the room, that the resident had before the absence.
- Under the regulation, a licensee can arrange for a different bed or room where the resident’s needs have changed and as a result a different bed or room is necessary, but the class of accommodation would not change.

If a long-stay resident is on a medical absence beyond 30 days:

- For a resident who is discharged from their LTC home for exceeding a medical absence of 30 days (**excluding** residents who cannot return to the home due to an outbreak in their home, see below) and who wishes to return to their LTC home may apply to the placement co-ordinator and, if eligible and the home approves the application, would be placed in the readmission category for the home, which ranks higher than crisis for placement.

If a long-stay resident is on a medical absence that is beyond a 30-day period but cannot return to a home because it is in outbreak:

- If the long-stay resident is unable to return to the home because of an outbreak of disease at their home and has surpassed the 30-day period, the licensee cannot discharge the resident.
- Upon return, there is not a requirement to place the resident in the same room and same bed in the room they occupied prior their medical absence. The type of accommodation (basic or preferred) would remain.

Additional Information:

In addition to the regulatory requirements under O.Reg.79/10, directives issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health with regards to long-term care homes must be followed.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the ministry by e-mail at LTC.info@Ontario.ca.