

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Office of the Associate Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Pandemic Response

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**Ministry of Health**

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Ministère de la Santé

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March 4, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Licensees and Public Health Units

FROM: Erin Hannah
Associate Deputy Minister
LTC Pandemic Response

Alison Blair
Associate Deputy Minister
Pandemic Response and Recovery

SUBJECT: Ongoing LTC Vaccine Rollout

We are writing today to express our appreciation for your ongoing vaccination work and to issue a call to action now and over the next few weeks.

To date, your collective efforts have resulted in over 90% of Long-Term Care (LTC) residents receiving at least a first vaccine dose. This achievement means the highest level of available protection for these vulnerable citizens and greater peace of mind for them and their families.

As Ontario sees the supply of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines increase in the coming weeks, we are urging you to remain focused on completing the vaccine roll out to LTC homes, including first dose offers to LTC staff, essential caregivers, and any remaining residents (including those in Alternative Level Care beds who have a discharge destination of LTC home or are waiting to be re-admitted to a LTC home), and completing all second doses.

Public Health Units and LTC homes must continue working together proactively to identify how vaccines will be made available to staff and essential caregivers.

Approaches can include onsite vaccination clinics at LTC homes (led by either the home, public health unit or mobile team) or offsite clinics. In putting concrete plans in place, we ask that you keep in mind the following:

- Plans should be in place to allow as much preparation time as possible to support awareness and advance scheduling.
- Onsite vaccination clinics are preferable, wherever possible, to increase uptake and reduce the need for staff and essential caregivers to travel, especially where distance may be a challenge.
- External physicians, other frontline health care workers, and LTC / labour inspectors that attend to LTC homes are included in the staff group and should be part of onsite clinics at the LTC home or offsite clinics.
- ALC patients awaiting admission / readmission to LTC who choose to receive a vaccine should, in so far as is feasible, receive both vaccine doses prior to transfer to a LTC home.
- Accurate and timely data recording in COVax is extremely important to tracking progress and should be appropriately resourced as part of vaccination clinics.

Making sure LTC staff and essential caregivers have access to the vaccination program as soon as the supply allows is an important element of preparedness for potential future surges of the virus. We thank you again for all of the work you are doing and we know we can rely on you to work together with speed and efficiency.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Erin Hannah
Associate Deputy Minister
LTC Pandemic Response
Ministry of Long-Term Care

Original signed by

Alison Blair
Associate Deputy Minister
Pandemic Response and Recovery
Ministry of Health

c: Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Dr. David Williams, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long-Term Care Association