

March 23, 2021

Dear Long-Term Care Home Licensees:

Re: Additional COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding

This letter is further to the recent letter from the Honourable Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care, informing you of additional funding to long-term care homes to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

The Government of Ontario is providing additional emergency funding of up to \$154,888,700 to help eligible long-term care homes with prevention and containment efforts.

This investment reflects \$116,146,000 allocated for a one-time funding adjustment to address the funding shortfall reported by long-term care homes from April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The funding shortfall represents the difference between incremental funding allocated to eligible long-term care homes and the actual incremental expenses incurred for prevention and containment efforts as reported from April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Long-term care homes that have outstanding invoices under a Mandatory Management Order or Voluntary Management Contract are required to use this allocation to pay supporting organizations for the services provided. Once these outstanding balances are paid, funds may be used for additional prevention and containment efforts at the home.

In addition to the above funding adjustment, as outlined in individual notices, up to \$38,742,700 is being allocated for the twelfth and final tranche of prevention and containment funding for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The twelfth tranche of prevention and containment funding will be flowed to eligible licensees of long-term care homes using the following approach:

- Every eligible licensee of a long-term care home will receive baseline funding of \$12,000 and \$360 per bed to support necessary incremental expenditures to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Homes with B, C and/or D beds will receive additional funding to address prevention and containment challenges resulting from a long-term care home's older physical structure and living spaces. Small homes with 96 or fewer beds will receive additional baseline funding of \$15,000. Homes with 97 or more beds will receive additional baseline funding of \$10,000.

- It is anticipated that homes with active and resolved COVID-19 outbreaks would incur more expenses to support further prevention and containment efforts. In recognition of those efforts, eligible homes with COVID-19 outbreak reported or resolved as of March 1, 2021 will receive an adjustment of \$10,000 per home and \$300 per bed. The additional per-bed funding applies to all beds in operation.

Please note, funding adjustments will also be applied to LTC homes that reported COVID-19 related incremental expenses that are lower than their prevention and containment allocations for April 1 to December 31, 2020. Please review the email accompanying this letter to see the breakdown of the funding and adjustments applied to your long-term care home.

Eligible long-term care homes are those homes whose licensee is a party to a Letter of Agreement for Ministry Direct Funding to Long-Term Care Homes (DFA) with the ministry. This funding will be subject to the terms of the DFA and any terms and conditions set out in this letter. This letter sets out the applicable ministry policies for these tranches of transfer payment funding under Schedule A of the DFA. All other terms and conditions contained in the DFA will remain in full force and effect.

Consistent with previous disbursements issued during this fiscal year, eligible expenses as a result of COVID-19 include extraordinary operating expenses incurred by the long-term care licensee to support the long-term care home that it holds a licence to operate, for:

- immediate 24/7 active screening of long-term care home staff and visitors and anyone else entering the long-term care home for COVID-19, and to screen residents on an ongoing basis to support early containment of any new infections;
- prevention and containment activities, such as hiring new staff to carry out the added workload for essential services and/or to replace workers who are sick or in isolation;
- staffing recruitment and retention strategies (e.g., overtime pay, additional costs to convert part-time staff to full-time, costs to backfill staff on sick leave);
- cleaning, equipment, and operating supplies beyond typical levels for the home;
- implementing infection control measures based on clinical evidence, advice from a physician or other regulated health care practitioners with expertise in infection control;
- supporting virtual care and services for long-term care home residents and staff;
- providing hotel or other accommodation to some staff to help them reduce travel or potential exposure to their families;
- incremental costs of COVID-19 testing and vaccine administration; or
- any other incremental costs required for a rapid response to prevent and contain COVID-19 in the home.

This additional funding is intended to support incremental expenses and provide flexibility to prevent and contain COVID-19 and is not limited to specific expenditure categories.

In future communications, the ministry will continue to request quarterly interim financial reports from long-term care homes. The data collected from these reports will inform possible future disbursement approaches. The ministry asks long-term care homes to maintain detailed financial records for all incremental costs incurred, as they may be subject to an audit.

Funding provided during the 2020-21 fiscal year (i.e. from April 2020 to March 2021) that is not spent by March 31, 2021 will be recovered as part of the ministry's 2021 reconciliation process. Specifically, funding will be reconciled through a separate entry in Section I, Part A of the Long-Term Care Homes Annual Reconciliation Report ("LTCH Annual Report") at the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this letter, including the *Long-Term Care Homes Annual Report Technical Instructions and Guidelines* and as outlined below:

- The total cost for all eligible goods and services, purchased between April 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, and received by December 31, 2020 will need to be reported in a separate section, Section I, Part A of the 2020 LTCH Annual Report.
- The total cost for all eligible goods and services, purchased between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021, and received by March 31, 2021 will need to be reported in a separate section, Section I, Part A of the 2021 LTCH Annual Report.
- The costs shall NOT be reported in Sections C through F and Section I, Part B of the 2020 LTCH Annual Report.
- The ministry will add the costs reported in Section I, Part A of the 2020 LTCH Annual Report to eligible costs reported in Section I, Part A of the 2021 LTCH Annual Report for all eligible goods and services purchased between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021 and received by March 31, 2021.
- The sum of the costs reported in both the 2020 and 2021 LTCH Annual Reports will be reconciled against the 2020-21 funding and any unspent funds will be recovered as part of the 2021 reconciliation.

As noted above reconciliation will be undertaken on a fiscal year basis, by comparing total funding provided for April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 against total costs incurred from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. Any unspent funds as of March 31, 2021 will be recovered.

The government recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to create unprecedented challenges across the health and long-term care sectors. Accordingly, Minister Fullerton announced that the government will continue to provide prevention and containment support into the 2021-22 fiscal year. Further details regarding 2021-22 funding will be provided as soon as they are available.

We will continue to work closely with our long-term care sector stakeholders to explore additional funding opportunities. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact the ministry by e-mail at LTC.Info@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication as we work together to implement enhanced measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care homes.

Sincerely,



Sheila Bristo
Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Operations Division
Ministry of Long-Term Care

c:

Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care
Peter Kaftarian, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Administrative Officer,
Corporate Services Division
Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Capital Development
Division
Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division
Jim Yuill, Director, Financial Management Branch, Corporate Services Division
Ms. Abby Dwosh, Director, Funding and Programs Branch, Long-Term Care Operations
Division
Bill Hatanaka, Board Chair, Ontario Health
Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health
Stephanie Lockert, Interim Lead Corporate Planning, Ontario Health
Elham Roushani, Chief Financial Officer, Ontario Health
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Home Association
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
Monika Turner, Director of Policy, Association of Municipalities Ontario