

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Operations Division

11th Floor, 1075 Bay Street
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Tel.: 416 327-7461
Fax: 416 327-7603

Ministère des Soins de longue durée

Sous-ministre adjointe par intérim
Opérations relatives aux soins de longue durée

1075, rue Bay, 11^e étage
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Tél.: 416 327-7461
Télééc.: 416 327-7603



August 28, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Stakeholders

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

SUBJECT: **Resident Absences**

As we continue to respond to COVID-19, please take note of this update on absences for long-term care home residents.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has released an update to COVID-19 Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* (Directive #3), effective August 28, 2020, that provides direction on resident absences from the long-term care home. Under the updated Directive #3, residents may leave the home's property for a short stay or temporary absence.

- **Short stay absences** are for health care-related, social or other reasons and do not include an overnight stay, with the exception of single-night emergency room visits.
- **Temporary absences** are for personal reasons and for one or more nights. Homes must review and approve all temporary absences based on a case-by-case risk assessment as outlined in Directive #3.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

(ORIGINAL SIGNED BY)

Sheila Bristo
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Long-Term Care

cc: Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care
Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division
Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Capital Development

Attachments:
COVID-19 Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes
Frequently Asked Questions