

**Ministry of
Long-Term Care**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des
Soins de longue durée**

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eApprove# 179-2020-15

April 9, 2020

Dear Long-Term Care Home Licensee:

Over the past week, we have all observed with concern the increase of COVID-19 infection across a number of long-term care homes. I recognize how hard you and your teams are working to contain infection where it has occurred and to prevent new outbreak wherever possible.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to you for that. I also want to assure you that our government has taken and will continue to take action, including emergency orders, regulatory amendments and emergency funding, to support you in this work.

Today, I am writing to highlight how the emergency funding our government is providing to long-term care homes will allow for the flexibility required to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19. **This emergency funding is intended to financially support the necessary incremental expenditures of long-term care homes as you work to prevent and contain COVID-19 and is not limited to specific expenditure categories.**

Potential uses of this funding may include:

- The incremental costs of increasing the hours of part-time staff in order to enable them to limit their locations of employment (consistent with *Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health).
- The costs of providing hotel accommodation to some staff to assist them in reducing travel or exposure to families.
- Incremental costs of screening, staff and equipment associated with prevention and containment.
- Any other incremental expenditures required for the rapid response to prevent and contain COVID-19 in a long-term care home.

As previously communicated, the first two initial tranches of emergency funding are being provided to all homes (\$37,500 per home in March and \$37,500 per home in April).

Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19, provides \$88 million in additional prevention and containment funding in 2020-21 to support additional costs associated with screening, staffing, and supplies. Details regarding the allocation of these funds will be available shortly. These funds will also support the extraordinary costs related to the rapid response required to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19. The types of costs referenced above will continue to be eligible.

Our government also announced a new investment of nearly \$130 million to create emergency capacity in long-term care homes, to support adequate space to isolate residents as needed and to open appropriate care spaces for hospital patients who are waiting for long-term care. This funding will support the incremental costs long-term care homes may experience due to actions taken to isolate residents (such as the cost of using preferred beds as basic beds) and will support the cost of temporary emergency licenses issued to increase system capacity. This capacity funding will flow to long-term care homes through normal funding mechanisms.

We are in extraordinary times. Our government will continue the fight against this virus, and I will continue to take action to provide you with essential supports.

Thank you for your continued work to keep the residents in your homes and the staff who care for them safe.

Sincerely,

Original Version Signed

Dr. Merrilee Fullerton
Minister of Long-Term Care

c: Mr. William Hatanaka, Board Chair, Ontario Health
Mr. Dan Kaniuk, Chair, Board of Directors, Ontario Long-Term Care Home Association
Ms. Jane Sinclair, Chair, Board of Directors, Advantage Ontario
Mr. Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care
Ms. Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division
Mr. Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Operations Division