

Ministry of Long-Term Care

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durée

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March 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Stakeholders

FROM: Brian Pollard
Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Operations Division
Ministry of Long-Term Care

SUBJECT: **Amendments to Ontario Regulation 79/10 under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* related to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The Ministry of Long-Term Care (Ministry) is actively working with our partners at all levels in the health care system to implement enhanced measures and supports to ensure that we are prepared to protect the health of our most vulnerable. The health and well-being of all Ontarians, including long-term care (LTC) residents, their families, and staff, is our government's number one priority.

I am pleased to share the important steps we are taking to address the COVID-19 pandemic through the implementation of emergency measures to help meet this need.

Effective March 20, 2020 amendments were made to Ontario Regulation 79/10 (Regulation) under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* (LTCHA) to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives of these amendments are to:

- Protect the safety and health of LTC residents;
- Streamline LTC home operations; and
- Support LTC homes in building staffing capacity during the pandemic.

The amendments made to the Regulation are as follows:

1. Amending the exemptions to the 24/7 registered nurse (RN) requirement to provide staffing flexibility in cases where the pandemic prevents an RN from being present in the home.
2. Temporarily providing for flexibility in the timing of police record checks in order to get more staff working in homes sooner.
3. Prioritize the timing of specific training requirements such as Abuse, Infection prevention and Control ensuring those requirements are completed as soon as possible.

4. Staffing Requirement Exemptions for the number of hours the Director of Nursing and Personal Care must work in their positions to allow them to focus on frontline activities.

Full details about these amendments can be found in the FAQs included with this package. Should you have any questions, please contact the Licensing, Policy and Development Branch of the Long-Term Care Operations Division at LTC.Info@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support during this time as we work to ensure the health and safety of Ontarians during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Brian Pollard
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Long-Term Care

cc:

Mr. Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care
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
Ms. Michelle-Ann Hylton, Director, Licensing and Policy Branch
Ms. Stacey Colameco, Director, Long-Term Care Inspections Branch
Ms. Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division