

June 9, 2021

MEMO TO: Long-Term Care Home Licensees

FROM: Erin Hannah
Associate Deputy Minister
LTC Pandemic Response

SUBJECT: Step One of Ontario's Roadmap to Reopen

I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to you for your continued efforts in facilitating safe opportunities for residents to be with each other and their loved ones as the process of reopening in Ontario continues. The feedback we receive from you as we ease restrictions in long-term care homes remains invaluable.

As you know, earlier this week the government announced that Ontario will move into Step One of the [Roadmap to Reopen](#) on Friday, June 11.

Over the past few weeks, we announced changes to support resident well-being and enable family and friends to connect with their loved ones. These changes were made in anticipation of Step One and include allowances for:

- Outdoor visits including two general visitors and two caregivers (effective Saturday May 22)
- Indoor visits including one general visitor and one caregiver for residents with mobility limitations or health conditions that make outdoor visits highly unlikely or impossible (effective today)
- Social (day) and temporary (overnight) absences for fully vaccinated residents (effective today)

Additional changes will not be introduced with the move to Step One under the broader provincial re-opening plan. However, we did receive a request for clarification regarding small group activities for residents. Per the MLTC Guidance Document, small group activities among residents may occur indoors with residents cohorted and masked where tolerated. Masking is also required for staff and any fully immunized caregivers who join the activity. There is no specific number assigned as this will vary based on the

size of cohorts homes have created. We have amended the MLTC Guidance Document to recognize these small group activities may also occur outdoors with the same precautions. Please note, any group activity taking place beyond the home's property would be subject to the social gathering rules set out in the broader provincial re-opening plan.

We continue to work with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Response and Recovery Advisory Committee to identify additional opportunities to support residents' well-being and a return to more normalcy as vaccination rates increase and infection rates decrease in communities across Ontario. Our objective is to provide time for our home partners to prepare and communicate with everyone in their home communities prior to future changes taking effect. We will make every effort to meet this objective as we continue to move forward.

Thank you again for your commitment to ensuring the protection of all individuals in long-term care homes. As a reminder, we are available to provide direct support to homes should they have any questions related to the pandemic. The team can be reached by emailing MLTCPandemicResponse@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Erin Hannah

Attachment: Updated FAQs: Directive #3, MLTC Guidance, and Visiting Policy

c: Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)
Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health (MOH)
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health
Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery Division, MOH
Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Capacity Planning and Analytics Division, MOH/MLTC
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
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