

To:	Chair and Members of the Long-Term Care Committee of Management
Committee Date:	October 3, 2022
Subject / Report No:	LTCR-CM-15-22
Title:	LTC Director Update
Prepared by:	Jennifer Cornell, Director of Long-Term Care
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CC83-22; Endorsed by County Council October 27, 2022, per Resolution CC87-22.

Recommendation

1. That report LTCR-CM-15-22 regarding a Long-Term Care Director Update be received for information.

Executive Summary

Our homes continue to ensure strong and consistent infection prevention and control measures remain in place, including audits, universal masking, screening, and testing.

The teams continue to work through the new requirements for the Fixing Long Term Care Act (FLTCA).

COVID-19 Updates

On August 18th, the Government released [Ontario's Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#), which outlined five strategic goals to build a stronger healthcare system:

1. Preserving our Hospital Capacity;
2. Providing the Right Care in the Right Place;
3. Further Reducing Surgical Waitlists;
4. Easing Pressure on our Emergency Departments; and
5. Further Expanding Ontario's Health Workforce.

The Ministry of Long-Term Care is working together with the Ministry of Health to put this initiative into operation as we head into the fall/winter respiratory disease season. The Deputy

Minister of Long-Term Care released a [memo](#) outlining long-term care homes' role, new funding, the proposed Bill 7: More Beds, Better Care Act 2022, and supporting recruitment and retention in long-term care.

On August 30th, the updated [ADM Memo](#) was released outlining additional details on the Ministry of Long-Term Care initiatives to support Ontario's Plan to Stay Open:

- Reopening of short-stay convalescent and short-stay respite care programs
 - The Ministry is lifting the suspension of short-stay convalescent and short-stay respite care programs.
- Beds for pandemic-related isolation purposes
 - The requirements for homes to set beds aside for pandemic-related isolation have been updated in [the Minister's Directive: COVID-19 responses measures for long-term care homes](#). Licensees are now directed to refer to the 'Areas for Isolation' set out in the [COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario](#).
- Funding for specialized supports and services
 - The Ministry is expanding access to specialized supports and services, such as behavioural supports for individuals with dementia, to support transitions into long-term care through new investments, including in 2022-23
- Additional occupancy funding reminders and updates
 - Licensees are advised that the occupancy funding protection cap will expire September 30, 2022. Under the occupancy funding protection cap, LTC homes that do not achieve target resident days (97% occupancy for long-stay beds, 90% for interim short-stay beds) will not receive less than 90% of their LOC per diem funding on beds subject to occupancy.
- Staffing and HHR programs
 - The Ministry will be launching a targeted program with Humber College and a partner home – an “earn as you learn” PSW track that supports LTC staff to advance their careers.

On August 24th, an updated version of the [Standard Operating Procedure](#) and [Fall Checklist](#) was released to support the standard operating procedures for outbreak management.

COVID-19 Outbreak

On July 10th, a suspected COVID-19 Outbreak was declared at Grey Gables and at Lee Manor (3 South). The outbreak was declared over on July 14th at Lee Manor and July 15th at Grey Gables.

Lee Manor had a suspected COVID-19 Outbreak on the 3rd South home area which was declared on July 10th and declared over on July 14th.

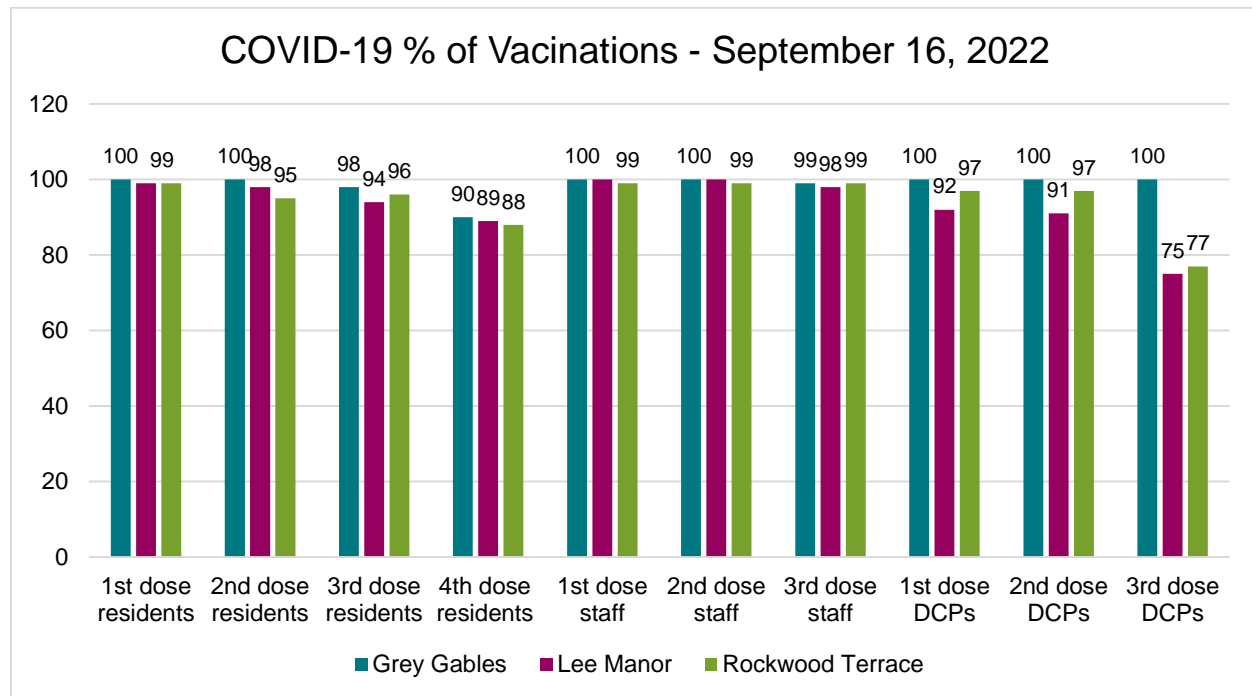
On July 10th, a COVID-19 Outbreak was declared on the 3rd floor at Rockwood Terrace. The outbreak affected 3 residents and 0 staff. The outbreak was declared over on July 19th. During the outbreak, Public Health was onsite to conduct an IPAC assessment. Hand hygiene audits were increased, and the auditorium was utilized as a COVID-19 Unit for positive residents.

On August 3rd, Public Health declared of COVID-19 Outbreak on the second floor at Rockwood Terrace. The outbreak affected 23 residents, 0 staff; the auditorium was transformed into the

COVID-19 Unit with dedicated staff providing care and support for positive residents. The second-floor outbreak was declared over on September 1st. On August 20th, a COVID-19 outbreak was declared on the third floor. The two outbreaks were treated separately, as the variant on the third floor was highly transmissible affecting 31 residents and 19 staff. The leadership team activated their 7-day rotation schedule to provide additional support. The third-floor outbreak was declared over on September 7th.

On September 14th, a COVID-19 Outbreak was declared on the 2 South home area. The outbreak affected 9 residents and 1 staff as of September 19th, the home is working closely with our Public Health partners at Public Health to manage and contain the outbreak.

Vaccination



On July 15th, the Associate Deputy Minister released a [memo](#) regarding second booster doses. The Chief Medical Officer of Health announced expanded eligibility for the fourth COVID-19 vaccine dose (second booster) for individuals 18 to 59 years old. Second booster doses are being offered at an interval of five months after an individual receives their first booster dose. A new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is anticipated to be approved this fall, which may offer more targeted protection against the Omicron variant. People are encouraged to speak to their health care provider about whether getting a 4th dose now is right for them. If you are considered a high-risk individual and have not yet received your second booster dose, they strongly suggest doing so as soon as possible.

High-risk individuals include:

- Residents of a long-term care home, retirement home, or Elder Care Lodge and older adults living in other congregate settings that provide assisted-living and health services;
- Individuals aged 60 and over;
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and over; and
- Individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. Please share this information with your staff and caregivers/family members to whom this expanded eligibility might apply.

In response to the ADM's memo, LTC released a memo to staff on July 22nd that outlined the above information. It was also noted that COVID-19 vaccinations access would continue to be provided at the three homes.

The bivalent COVID-19 vaccine arrived in September, and the homes organized vaccine clinics for all staff and designated care partners.

Active Screening and Surveillance Testing

Daily rapid antigen testing continues for all staff, students, support workers, volunteers, designated care partners, and general visitors to assist with early detection. On average, our three homes are completing over 2,000 rapid antigen tests on a weekly basis.

Active screening questions for long-term care were released on August 31st, and our electronic screening tool was updated. Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore announced changes to isolation guidelines for the general public but did note that if you're in the same household as someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19, mask in public spaces, even if you feel better, and avoid vulnerable individuals and settings for 10 days after exposure.

Visitors and Family

All three homes continue to offer visiting options through our Colour It Connect program. Virtual, window, indoor, and outdoor visiting bookings are utilized on a regular basis.

On September 8th, a [virtual family meeting](#) was held to provide information on the recent Ministry updates, fall preparedness, and accommodation rates.

Grey Gables was invited to participate in a care partner video produced by the Centres for Learning, research & innovation (CLRl) and Bruyère. The production team was onsite on September 7th. The video will include interviews with the Director of LTC, Resident Family Services Manager, residents, designated care partners, and staff. The video will be released in late October.

IPAC Strategies

In July, Public Health Ontario released its updated COVID-19 IPAC Checklist for LTC and Retirement homes. This checklist is completed twice a month at each home.

Public Health Ontario also released an updated COVID-19 Self-Assessment Audit Tool. This audit tool is designed to help infection prevention and control (IPAC) leads at long-term care homes and retirement homes assess how their IPAC practices meet minimum IPAC requirements under applicable legislation and regulations.

An updated version of the Public Health COVID-19 Prevention and Management Guide was received. A public link to this tool has been added to our Emergency Management and Infection Prevention & Control manuals for quick assessment.

On August 31st, the Ministry of Health released an updated [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario guidance document](#) with relevant information for homes, as well as an updated [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes](#). There were no changes to return to work measures for those who have symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19. Workers who are close contact with individuals with COVID-19 symptoms or positive test can return to work without isolating, provided they have no symptoms and follow additional precautions. There is also greater clarity as to what constitutes a high-risk exposure that would make a worker a close contact.

Advantage Ontario invited Simcoe County and Grey County's Clinical Specialist to present an IPAC focused webinar in September. This webinar provided an overview of the new IPAC FLTCA Regulations and requirements, an outline of a strong IPAC program and strategies and a day in the life as an IPAC lead.

Staffing

Each home continues to onboard new staff as the homes support staff with their continued education requests.

On July 21st, the Ontario government released a [press release](#) regarding the extension of COVID-19 paid sick days. Eligible workers will continue to receive up to \$200 a day for up to three days if they need to get tested, vaccinated, receive booster shots, self-isolate, or care for a family member who is ill from COVID-19. The government will continue to reimburse eligible employers for the paid leave days.

Recovery and Wellness

All three homes were invited to the September 12th Corporate Staff Picnic at Grey Roots. Food and beverages were also provided at each location for staff that were scheduled that day and unable to attend.

The 3rd quarter Wellness Newsletter will be released at the end of September. The wellness newsletter promotes our EAP Program, wellness tips and resources, Colour It Spirit photos, and each home's Colour It stories.

Finance

The Ministry of Long-Term Care released information on July 12th related to the Physician Compensation increases for the Physician on Call (POC) Program. Effective April 1, 2022, the payment elements under the funding agreement for the POC Program will be increased based on the April 1, 2020, values:

- **Year 1 (April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022)**
 - A temporary increase to the POC payments of 1% will be applied as a one-time payment.
 - Further information on Year 1 compensation will be released at a later date.
- **Year 2 (April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023)**
 - A temporary increase to POC payments of 2.01%.
- **Year 3 (April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024)**
 - Further information about Year 3 compensation increases will follow as it becomes available.

For **Year 2 (April 1, 2022–March 31, 2023)**, this compensation increase for the POC Program will be made in monthly payments beginning June 2022. The June payment will include retroactive funding for the period April to June 2022. The remaining equal payments will be made monthly thereafter.

On August 30th, the Ministry released a [memo](#) along with and [Q&A](#) and [Policy](#) related to the Personal Support Worker Permanent Wage Enhancement Funding. The Permanent Wage Enhancement for PSWs will now be incorporated as part of an employee's base salary. This change is retroactive to April 21, 2022.

On September 1st, the Ministry released an update for 2022-23 COVID-19 Prevention and Containment PPE Funding. This investment will be flowed to eligible long-term care homes based on the methodology outlined below. Every eligible licensee of a long-term care home will receive:

- Baseline funding of \$30,000, with an additional \$1,308 per bed to support necessary incremental expenditures to help stop the spread of COVID-19; and
- An additional amount of \$315 per bed to support homes with personal protective equipment (PPE) expenditures.

The Ministry also released a [memo](#) on September 1st, regarding LTC Home Accommodation Charges that came into effect on October 1, 2022. An inflationary increase of 2.5 per cent (%) was applied to the co-payment rates for basic and preferred accommodation in Long Term Care (LTC) Homes. As per the FLTCA, our homes provided the 30 days written notice that is required.

FLTCA Update

On August 18th the Ministry of Long-Term Care released the New Inspection Guides for long-term care homes. The new inspection guides replace the Long-Term Care Homes Act's 31 inspection protocols (IP). The IPs have been consolidated and revised into 23 FLTCA-based inspection Guides.

The 23 new Inspections Guides are as the following:

- Admissions, Absences and Discharge
- Contingence Care
- Falls Prevention
- Food, Nutrition and Hydration
- Housekeeping, Laundry, and Maintenance
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Medication Management
- Pain Management
- Palliative Care
- Prevention of Abuse and Neglect
- Quality Improvement
- Recreational and Social Activities
- Reporting and Complaints
- Resident Care and Support Services
- Resident Charges and Trust Accounts
- Resident Rights and Choices
- Resident and Family Councils
- Responsive Behaviour
- Restraints and PASD Management
- Safe and Secure Home
- Skin and Wound Care
- Staffing, Training and Care Standards
- Whistle-blower Protection and Retaliation

Collaborative work continues with the Long-Term Care Committee on the FLTCA, IPAC Lead Collaborative, ALC Strategy, Health Human Resources, and Wellness & Recovery working groups.

On August 31st, [Bill 7](#) was passed and received Royal Assent.

Grey County's updates:

- The Director of Care from Grey Gables and the Director of Care/Associate Director of Care from Rockwood Terrace have completed their IPAC Certification.
- Ontario Long Term Care Clinicians Medical Director Course. Medical Directors are required to complete the course within 12 months of assuming the role. Completion is in process.
- Homes continue to consult with all our vendors, and emergency service partners and implement the letter of understanding.
- Our homes are currently working with Point Click Care and Think Research on implementing additional clinical support tools that support Palliative and End of Life.

Partnerships

Work continues with partnerships at both regional and local levels. The Grey Bruce Long-Term Care Committee and healthcare partners have been meeting monthly, as we enter fall, the frequency has been increased to twice a month.

Recently, The County of Grey assisted the 19 long-term care homes in Grey and Bruce with the onboarding of STL Diagnostic Imaging. This partnership provides accessible diagnostic imaging and a timely and patient-friendly approach to the care and management of diagnostic imaging services.

We continue to be thankful for the support from Council, the CAO, Senior Management Team, and the staff in all departments. We recognize that we are in this together as we Colour It for our residents, families, staff, and communities.

Appendices and Attachments

- [Bulletin to Residents of Long-Term Care Homes: Important News Regarding Long Term Care Home Accommodation Charges](#)
- [MOLTC COVID-19 Emergency Measures Policy August 29, 2022](#)