



Committee Report

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| To: | Chair and Members of the Long-Term Care Committee of Management |
| Committee Date: | March 14, 2023 |
| Subject / Report No: | LTCR-CM-06-23 |
| Title: | LTC Director Update |
| Prepared by: | Jennifer Cornell, Director of Long-Term Care |
| Reviewed by: | Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer |
| Lower Tier(s) Affected: | |

Recommendation

1. **That report LTCR-CM-06-23 regarding a Long-Term Care Director Update be received for information.**

Executive Summary

This month marks the third year our homes have operated with COVID-19 response measures. As we reflect on the pandemic and the challenges we have overcome, we recognize the efforts and strength of our residents, families, and team members. We now have many tools and resources to protect ourselves, including a high level of immunity through vaccinations. The new COVID-19 variant XBB.1.5 has not been associated with a change in the severity of illness, but is highly transmissible, and more individuals may get infected as it becomes the main variant in Ontario. Our homes continue to stay strong and maintain vigilance to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents. Strong and consistent infection prevention and control measures remain in place, including audits, universal masking, screening, and testing.

COVID Updates

On January 24, 2023, the Ministry of Health released an updated version of the [Long-Term Care Pandemic Response Guidance](#). The following updates included:

- The definition of a confirmed outbreak was updated to two or more resident cases with a common epidemiological link within a 7-day period (changed from 10 days)
- The definition of when an outbreak is declared over was changed from 10 days to 7 days after the last case is identified if no new cases have been identified
- Clarifications were added related to precautions for non-roommate close contacts such as dining table mates, including monitoring for symptoms, masking where tolerated, and

physical distancing, and that residents in outbreak areas of the home be cohorted separately from non-exposed residents and residents in non-outbreak areas.

- Guidance was added, enabling PHU discretion to advise pausing communal dining and activities if the home is experiencing a facility-wide outbreak where transmission is uncontrolled, the rate of increase in cases or severity is significant, and the benefits of closing communal activities are greater than the harms caused to resident wellbeing.
- Guidance for the management of mixed outbreaks (e.g., influenza and COVID-19) was added.

On February 13, 2023, the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) and the Chief Medical Office of Health (CMOH) released a [memo](#) regarding COVID-19 and influenza vaccines and antivirals. The memo mentions that research shows that vaccination is the most effective way to protect against the most serious effects of COVID-19 and influenza. As of February 7, 2023, 76.3% of eligible residents have received a COVID-19 fall booster, and more than 350 homes have successfully vaccinated over 80% of their eligible residents. It is also strongly recommended that all residents, caregivers, and staff receive the COVID-19 booster when eligible and the influenza vaccine. Long-term care physicians and nurse practitioners are also encouraged to continue with prioritizing assessments for residents that may be eligible for the antivirals. For residents that have difficulties swallowing, clinicians may now consider splitting or crushing Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) and mixing it with common food or liquids.

COVID-19 Outbreak

There have been no COVID-19 outbreaks at our three homes since January 18, 2023.

Screening and Surveillance Testing

Daily screening (active/passive) and rapid antigen testing continues at all three homes for all team members, designated care partners and indoor visitors.

The three homes continue to test over 2,000 individuals weekly.

Infection Prevention & Control (IPAC) Strategies

All three IPAC & Wellness Leads are now onsite at each location, and are working closely with the Clinical Specialist and the home's leadership team.

Diversey Canada Inc. is a global leader in infection prevention and control have a long history of service and support for the healthcare sector. Their support service includes over 95 years experience with a senior clinical advisor and an IPAC specialist, along with specialists in key areas of laundry, facility care and dietary.

Diversey was recently awarded the new chemical supplier contract for the three homes in January 2023. The transition period started on February 14th at Grey Gables, February 22nd, at Rockwood Terrace and March 8th at Lee Manor. Diversey provided onsite education to the teams during the implementation process.

Staffing

All three homes attended the regional job fairs that were held on February 22nd and 28th, and March 1st and 2nd.

Our homes continue to welcome new student placement opportunities with colleges that are in our local and surrounding areas.

Recovery and Wellness

The 4th quarter Wellness Newsletter will be released at the end of March. The wellness newsletter promotes our EAP Program, wellness tips and resources, Colour It Spirit photos, and each home's Colour It stories.

Accreditation

As part of the first steps in our accreditation journey, our three homes will be completing the self assessments. The self assessment program will assist our team in as they work through the standards of excellence to identify what is being done well and what needs to be improved. As part of the kick off to Accreditation, a representative from Accreditation Canada presented an overview to the team on February 24th.

FLTCA Update

On February 3rd, the ADM released a [memo](#) regarding an update to the [proposed amendments](#) to the Ontario Regulation 246/22 under the FLTCA. The government has stated these amendments are a part of an ongoing evolution of the legislative framework intended to enhance quality of care and quality of life for residents in LTC homes. Some key changes proposed include:

- Staffing
 - Includes, amending staffing qualifications for some roles specified in the regulation to ensure requirements are proportionate with the responsibilities and accountabilities of the role.
 - Example: proposed amendment will allow long-term care homes to hire a cook with institutional, health care, restaurant, or hospitality cooking experience, in place of the identified educational/training requirement.
- Medication Management and Drug Administration
 - Includes clarifying requirements of the 24-hour admission care plan including adding reference to: clinical use of medications, adverse drug reactions, and medication reconciliation.
- Resident Experience
 - Includes several updates to air conditioner requirements including creating a new Administrative Monetary Penalty (up to \$25,000) for not meeting the requirement to have air conditioning in all resident rooms.
 - Requires licensee to ensure a post fall clinical assessment is always completed when a resident falls.
- Technical Amendments
 - Includes clarifying rules regarding applicability of Administrative Monetary Penalties in instances of non-compliance. As well as clarifying that the medical director has a role in oversight of medical care (and not all clinical care).

If the proposed amendments are approved, they will come in force on April 11, 2023.

Advantage Ontario's Administrator program has been updated to include a course related to the Emergency Planning requirements under in the Fixing Long Term Care Act, and the responsibilities/role of the administrator. Grey County's Director of Long-Term Care will be presenting the course in June and October, to share knowledge, tools, and resources to the future leaders.

The LTC Webinar for Municipal Councillors was well attended on February 15th, as a reference Advantage Ontario has provided a recording of the webinar for any council members that were unable to attend.

Partnerships

Work continues with partnerships at both regional and local levels. The Grey Bruce Long-Term Care Committee is meeting monthly and invite our healthcare partners to join every other month.

The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee on Infection Prevention and Control (PIDAC-IPC). PIDAC-IPC is a multidisciplinary committee of health care professionals with expertise and experience in infection prevention and control. The committee advises PHO on the prevention and control of health care clients/patients/residents and health care providers. PIDAC Best practice documents from Public Health Ontario are intended for use by health care workers and facilities/organizations providing health care including hospitals, long-term care facilities and community-based health care organizations. Our clinical specialist has been invited to support this collaborative work, for Best Practices for IPAC for LTCH.

On February 9th, Grey County and the YMCA Owen Sound Grey Bruce were honoured to accept the Award of Excellence for their Local Workforce Development Initiative at the annual Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) Conference in Toronto. The workforce development initiative is a collaboration between Grey County Economic Development, YMCA Employment Services, Georgian College, Adult Learning Centres, and all 19 long-term care homes in Grey and Bruce Counties. The program addresses the local struggle to attract and retain staff into the long-term care sector by assisting job seekers to fulfill a career in healthcare. This initiative provided 137 participants with free pre-employment support, and access to Essential Skills Supportive Care training and Personal Support Worker training. Funding for the training (Essential Skills Supportive Care and Personal Support Worker) is provided by the Ministry of Labour Immigration Training and Skills Development through the Skills Advance Ontario and Skills Development Fund. This program will be presented at the 2023 Advantage Ontario Convention and to the Ministry of Labour Immigration Training and Skills Development in April.

Grey County will be attending the 2023 Advantage Ontario convention in April. Award submissions have been submitted for the following categories:

- Innovation and Excellence Supporting Seniors
- Innovation and Excellence Workplace Quality
- Student Volunteer Award (two submissions)

We continue to be thankful for the support from Council, the CAO, the 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

None.