



Committee Report

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| To: | Chair and Members of the Long Term Care Committee of Management |
| Committee Date: | March 15, 2022 |
| Subject / Report No: | LTCR-CM-05-22 |
| Title: | LTC COVID-19 Update |
| Prepared by: | Jennifer Cornell, Director of Long Term Care |
| Reviewed by: | Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer |
| Lower Tier(s) Affected: | Recommendation endorsed by Committee as presented; Endorsed by County Council March 24, 2022 per Resolution CC28-22; |

Recommendation

1. That report **LTCR-CM-05-22 regarding a Long-Term Care COVID-19 Status Update** be received for information.

Executive Summary

March 10th marked the 2nd year of the pandemic for our homes and communities. Over the past two years we have implemented numerous protective measures and strategies to protect our residents and combat the deadly COVID-19 virus. Our teams continue to be vigilant, adapt and persevere. The Counties of Grey and Bruce experienced the highest COVID-19 case count to date during the months of December and January. Our three homes felt the effects of the fourth wave, and it was the most challenging time yet for our residents, families, and team members. Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures continue to be in place, PPE supplies are monitored to ensure an 8-week supply is maintained.

Updates

Outbreaks

Rockwood Terrace

A COVID-19 outbreak was declared on December 22nd and was declared over on February 11th. The outbreak lasted 51 days, affecting 27 residents, and 9 staff. Unfortunately, 2 residents passed away with COVID-19 and we send our condolences

to their families and loved ones. The Rockwood Terrace team stayed strong, team members stepped up and worked extra shifts. Our designated care partners arranged their visiting times to assist resident with meals and morning/evening cares. Paramedic services also assisted throughout the outbreak. We are grateful to have such an amazing team. The Rockwood team transformed the auditorium into a COVID-19 unit. This strategy was beneficial and assisted the team in managing and containing the outbreak.

Lee Manor

A COVID-19 Outbreak was declared on 3 South on January 9th. The outbreak affected 2 residents and 2 staff members, and was declared over on January 22nd.

On January 26th, a seasonal coronavirus outbreak was declared on 3 North. The outbreak affected 12 residents. Grey Bruce Public Health declared the outbreak over on February 14th.

On January 26th a COVID-19 Outbreak was declared on 1 South at Lee Manor. The outbreak affected 8 residents and 4 staff members. Enhanced measures were put in place, including strategically placing 10 HEPA air filters to maximize air quality. On February 8th, Grey Bruce Public Health declared the COVID-19 outbreak over on 1 South.

Grey Gables

A COVID-19 outbreak was declared at Grey Gables on January 9th and declared over on January 22nd. The outbreak affected 13 staff and 0 residents.

On February 5th a COVID-19 outbreak was declared on Maple Lane at Grey Gables. There were three positive resident results received. I am saddened to report 1 resident death related to the outbreak, and we send our condolences to the family. The outbreak was contained to Maple Lane and affected 6 residents and 1 staff member. Similar to Lee Manor, HEPA air filters were strategically positioned to maximize air quality. Public Health declared the COVID-19 outbreak over on February 19th.

All team members at each location worked quickly to implement enhanced IPAC measures and worked closely with Public Health to contain the outbreaks. Health status reports were provided daily to families of covid positive residents and general updates were provided daily to the community through MailChimp and family/Designated Care Partner (DCP) email contacts. Daily outbreak management meetings were held with Public Health. IPAC audits were conducted daily, and additional supports were utilized. Leadership teams activated their 7 day a week rotation to provide daily support.

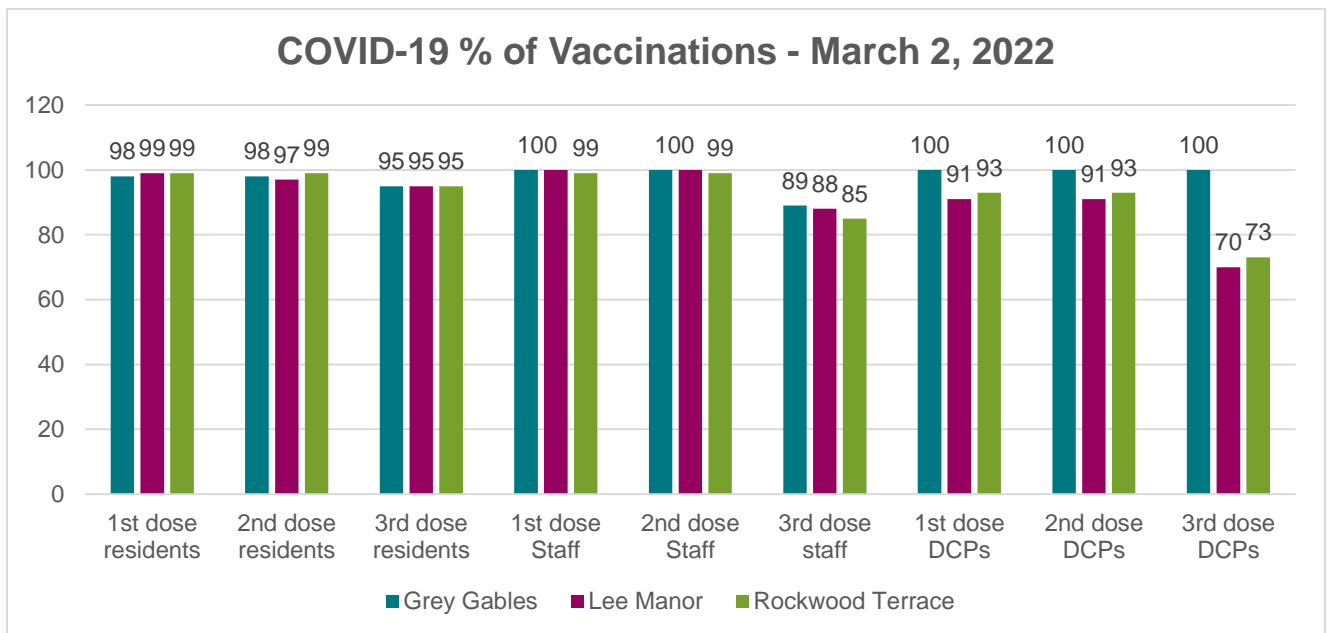
Vaccination

On January 27th, the Associate Deputy Minister released an updated Directive related to the deadline for all eligible staff, student placements, volunteers, support workers and caregivers to provide proof of having received a third dose by March 14th, unless they have a valid medical exemption. For those who are eligible to receive a third dose after March 14th, they must provide proof of a third dose within 30 days of becoming eligible.

Due to the outbreak situations, the 4th COVID-19 vaccination was on hold for residents that had tested positive and for residents in a home area that was affected by the outbreak. Public health recommended residents infected with COVID wait 3 months from symptom onset/date of specimen collection of their infection before giving the 4th dose of vaccine. All other residents can get the vaccine 3 months from their third dose. The clinical teams continue to offer vaccinations based on this timeline.

On February 10th, the third dose booster recommendation was updated to reflect the eligibility for 16/17-year-old health care workers and interval dosage for infected persons. It recommends a 3-month interval between COVID-19 infection and third dose.

Our current COVID vaccination rates are:



Surveillance Testing

On January 24th daily rapid antigen testing for all staff, students, support workers, volunteers and designated care partners was implemented. This also expanded to general visitors as of February 21st.

During the outbreaks, we experienced delays in lab results. To reduce the spread of the virus it was crucial to identify positive cases as quick as possible. Collaboratively, Paramedic Services

and the long term care department are implementing the ID Now machine at Rockwood Terrace. This method of molecular testing to detect COVID-19 is supported by Ontario Health and will use Mobile Order and Results Entry (MORE) Solutions which has been made available for deployment across Ontario. MORE targets specimen collection sites to support PCR testing and ID Now rapid testing sites without the support of a lab for the entry of test results into the Provincial Lab System (OLIS). The main objectives are to digitize the requisition and results submission, improve data quality, reduce turnaround time, and enhance patient experience. Rockwood Terrace utilized the ID Now in February and experienced turnaround in less than 1 hour.

Visiting & Leaves of Absences

On February 3rd, Associate Deputy Minister of Long Term Care released updates that outlined the gradual reopening with three target dates. The gradual ease of restrictions included the following:

February 7th

- The maximum number of designated caregivers per resident increases from 2 to 4 (unless designated before December 15th). Maintain the limit of 2 visitors
- Social day absences are able to resume for residents who have had at least three COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- Designated Care Partners must have at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to enter the home and be fully vaccinated as of February 21, 2022. Proof of a third dose is required by March 14, 2022 (only if eligible on or after March 14).

February 21st

Our homes resumed all general visitors including visitors aged 5 years and older who had at least two COVID-19 vaccine doses.

- Children under 5 years of age remained suspended, except for infants 12 months or younger.
- Increased limits on the number of visitors (including caregivers) to 3 at a time.
- Social day absences were expanded to all residents regardless of their vaccination status.
- Social overnight absences resumed for residents who had at least three COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- Resumption of adult day programs, entertainers, and personal care services in the homes. Social group activities remained as small groups (i.e., up to 10).

Target March 14th

- Resume visits by general visitors under 5 years old.
 - No vaccination requirement for those under the age of 5.
- Increase limit on the number of visitors (including caregivers) at a time per resident to 4.
- Allow social overnight absences for all residents regardless of vaccination status.

A [virtual family meeting](#) was held on February 10th to discuss the latest guidance for visiting and leaves.

IPAC Strategies

On January 24th, all three homes implemented daily rapid antigen testing, N95 mask, and eye protection. These additional protective measures were implemented to assist with early detection and to provide an additional layer of protection. The N95 mask offers superior filtration and a tight seal to help prevent the spread of infection. N95 masks are also provided to designated care partners and general visitors.

During the outbreaks N95 mask fit testing was ongoing, as the supply of N95 styles were limited and many staff were required to be retested. All three homes shared one mask fit machine, which created difficulties in coordinating testing. Many times, we required the use of paramedic services' mask fit machine or arranging for staff to travel to another location to be fitted. After assessing the situation, the long term care department utilized Ministry of Long Term Care IPAC funding and purchased two additional machines. This allows each home to have quick access to mask fit for team members and designated care partners.

Designated Care Partner Program

Our Designated Care Partner program continues to grow, as part of the easing of restrictions, residents can now designate up to 4 caregivers.

Our Designated Care Partner program will be presented at the Advantage Ontario's Annual Convention in April 2022 and will feature three designated care partners testimonials.

Staffing

A number of the 19 long term care homes in our area experienced an increase in staffing challenges during the recent omicron surge. It was identified that there was a need for a Long Term Care emergency response team. As part of the Emergency Response team, staff would be deployed to assist the homes in a crisis situation and assist with a number of duties, allowing nursing staff to focus on resident care.

The Long Term Care Committee worked collaboratively with the YMCA Employment Services and funding from Ontario Health to create a team and work through the orientation requirements. Utilizing Grey County's eLearning platform, we have provided the mandatory orientation education for over 30 individuals and are ready to be deployed when needed.

Recovery and Wellness

As restrictions ease both in the community and within long term care we begin to shift our attention to pandemic recovery and wellness. The team is actively working on action items that support the transition from pandemic response to embedded protective measures that will become part of everyday life in long term care, much in the same way influenza prevention programs were before COVID-19. Additionally, the recovery and wellness of residents, family members and staff are a high priority, and we are making a culture of wellness a priority in our organization. The pace and stress of working in long term care over the past two years is not a sustainable one and we need to recognize, adjust, and plan appropriately.

Finance

On February 7, 2022, each home received additional Covid-19 Prevention and Containment Funding for the remainder of the 2021-22 fiscal year. The funding was broken down as follows;

Rockwood Terrace; \$270,000, Grey Gables; \$198,600 and Lee Manor; \$375,000. This additional funding is part of an additional \$277 million in support to prevent and contain outbreaks for 2021-22 by the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

Additional Prevention and Containment reporting was requested and submitted for further review and consideration of additional funding. Reporting was completed on February 18th to the Ministry of Long-Term Care for review and consideration.

Partnerships

Work continues with partnerships at both regional and local levels. The Grey Bruce Long Term Care Committee and healthcare partners are meeting every two weeks.

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

- [MLTC Assoc DM Memo - LTC Pandemic Response Updates 2022.01.27](#)
- [Ministers Directive LTCH COVID-19 Immunization Policy 2022.01.27](#)
- [LTC Guidance Document 2022.02.04 FINAL](#)
- [Long-Term Care Pandemic Response FAQs 2022.02.04 FINAL](#)
- [LTC Visitor Absences Social Gatherings Snapshot 2022.02.04 FINAL](#)
- [LTC COVID-19 What residents can expect 2022.02.04 \(EN\)](#)
- [LTC Guidance Document February 18, 2022](#)
- [Long-Term Care Pandemic Response FAQs](#)
- [LTC Visitor Absences Social Gatherings Snapshot \(English\)](#)
- [LTC COVID-19 What residents can expect \(English\)](#)
- [ID Now Process Map](#)