

To:	Chair and Members of the Committee of Management
Committee Date:	July 6, 2020
Subject / Report No:	LTCR-CM-23-20
Title:	LTC COVID-19 Status Update
Prepared by:	Jennifer Cornell, Director of Long Term Care
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All Grey County
Status:	

Recommendation

1. That report **LTCR-CM-23-20 regarding a Long Term Care COVID-19 Status Update** be received for information.

Executive Summary

In the last month we have seen the community slowly reopen. The teams in the homes remain strong and dedicated to protecting and supporting residents, families and the community. As the child care centres reopen, we have seen an increase in staff returning to work. We currently do not have any COVID-19 cases or outbreaks at any of the three homes. The communities have continued to rally behind our homes and have shown their support by numerous food donations, PPE supplies, gratitude through emails, cards and letters, etc.

Updates

On May 31 the Ministry directed all long term care homes to implement Interval Testing for staff, twice in the month of June. There are people in the community that are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, and this style of surveillance testing may help early detection of positive COVID cases. All three homes completed their second round of interval testing on June 30th.

On June 1st, the Ministry of Long Term Care announced that the resident co-payment has been frozen for six months. This means the daily rate remains the same until December 31, 2020. The rate reduction program is still on schedule and communication

has been shared updating residents and families on both these items. The Ministry also mentioned that homes will not lose any revenue due to the rate freeze by fully funding the level of care increases that would have been collected from basic accommodation co-payments and compensating the homes for the preferred accommodation premium increases that would have been applicable.

The updated version to [Directive #3](#) was released on June 10, that outlined new guidelines for admissions from hospital, outdoor visiting and clarification regarding the outbreak definition. A guidance document for [Resuming Visiting in long term care homes](#) outlined that as of June 18th outdoor visits could resume; Grey Gables had outdoor visits booked on this day and Lee Manor and Rockwood Terrace followed suit on June 19th, perfect timing for the Father's Day weekend. Our homes worked extremely hard to implement the guidelines and new procedures to ensure the safety of everyone; outdoor shaded structure, active screening, infection control measure, PPE supplies, physical distancing, 30 minute scheduled visits, all visitors must have a negative COVID testing within 14 days of visit and education must be provided to all visitors. The Colour It promise speaks to the importance of our resident's overall health and wellbeing and our teams were very committed to a successful roll out. The visits were very organized and well received by all. This was a team effort and involved the County's IT department creating the online scheduling tool for all three homes, updating the electronic screener to include a visitor screener, updating of our webpages with all of the educational resources. The purchasing team also assisted to source out appropriate PPE for visitors.

The Colour It Connect program continues to be busy with the scheduling of facetime, window and outdoor visits along with numerous phone calls, emails etc. Program staff have started small group activities in home areas and residents are getting a chance to get outside and enjoy the beautiful gardens. Local entertainers have been providing outdoor concerts and the homes will be soon be planning BBQs and picnics for the season. The Ministry released a Personal Service Setting document on June 17th that has assisted the planning stages for reintroducing personal care services including haircare services.

With increased testing, there is a higher risk of a positive test result whether it be a true or false result. Directive 3 has also provided guidelines when dealing with a probable false positive which allows the home to be placed in a suspect outbreak while Public Health quickly retests the individual. New admissions from the hospital can now occur as long as the guidelines have been followed. Restrictions have been added to reduce the chance of spread of COVID 19 in 3 and 4 bed rooms by limiting those rooms to only 2 residents. This change will not affect any of our homes but will affect 147 beds across Grey and Bruce.

As we move forward, our focus is on developing a plan to introduce Designated Care Partners. Our commitment to our residents and their loved ones is to provide a safe way to support residents that allows for the much needed emotional and mental wellbeing a family member can provide. Our homes have created a planning and coordinating committee that will work together to balance the needs of the residents and the risks of spread of infection. This will be a partnership that will include the residents, families and staff and we hope to have the details finalized shortly.

With all these changes, continued communication with families and staff is very important. We recently held a virtual family meeting to discuss the Directive #3 changes and also send regular updates through the monthly newsletter (MailChimp campaigns). There is a virtual staff meeting planned for this week to provide details related to pandemic pay along with the introduction to the Designated Care Partners.

Partnerships

During the pandemic many sectors have joined forces to provide support to one another. Recently the South West Regional Non Hospital Pandemic Planning Committee (Director Cornell is a member) provided a tool kit to all long term care homes to assist with the implementation of the new visitor guidelines. A new Infection Prevention and Control Committee has been developed to look at implementing processes and support for all healthcare sectors.

Going forward work continues on new strategies, implementing outbreak protocols, managing and monitoring PPE supplies and ensuring ongoing communication. Our homes are thankful for the support from 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

None