



Committee Report

To:	Chair and Members of the Long Term Care Committee of Management
Committee Date:	July 12, 2022
Subject / Report No:	LTCR-CM-11-22
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-11-22 regarding a Long-Term Care Director Update be received for information.**

Executive Summary

Our homes continue with a cautious approach and have maintained the IPAC strategies and tools available to us, universal masking, screening, and testing.

The teams are working through the new requirements for the Fixing Long Term Care Act (FLTCA). As the transition period reaches the third month mark this month, the teams are on track to meet the initial requirements for this timeline.

COVID-19 Updates

Directive

On May 13th the Ministry updated the pandemic Response [FAQs](#). The updates included the following:

- The term “fully vaccinated” may continue to be used in some settings and policies. The definition of “fully vaccinated” is defined on the [Proof of COVID-19 vaccination page](#) and usually refers to completing a primary vaccine series (for example, receiving two doses of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine).
- This is different from being “up-to-date”, which means an individual has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including any booster dose(s) if eligible. Booster doses reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and improve protection against severe symptoms and outcomes.

- The change to reflect “up-to-date with all recommended doses” in the testing requirements does not mean that homes must update their vaccination policies to also reflect “up-to-date with all recommended doses”; however, they may choose to do so. The Grey County LTC COVID-19 Immunization Policy was updated in April to reflect this language.
- In addition, nothing in the asymptomatic screen-testing requirements prevents a long-term care home from establishing their own proof-of-vaccination requirements for staff, students, volunteers, caregivers, general visitors, and support workers, provided that they comply with applicable laws (such as the Human Rights Code and the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021*).

On June 10th, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore issued a [memo](#) regarding the Revocation of Directives #1, #2.1, #3, #4, and #5 and further guidance to support the health sector. The Ministry of Health also released a new document entitled [Guidance: Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Health Care Workers and Health Care Entities document](#). This document provides guidance on the appropriate PPE for the care of suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients once the Directives were revoked on June 11th, 2022. Directive #3 outlined outbreak management measures and routine practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the following direction is now outlined in the [Minister of Long-Term Care Directive: COVID-19 response measures for long term care homes](#), which maintains critical components of CMOH Directives #1, #3 and #5, and requirements following the [ministry’s COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units](#).

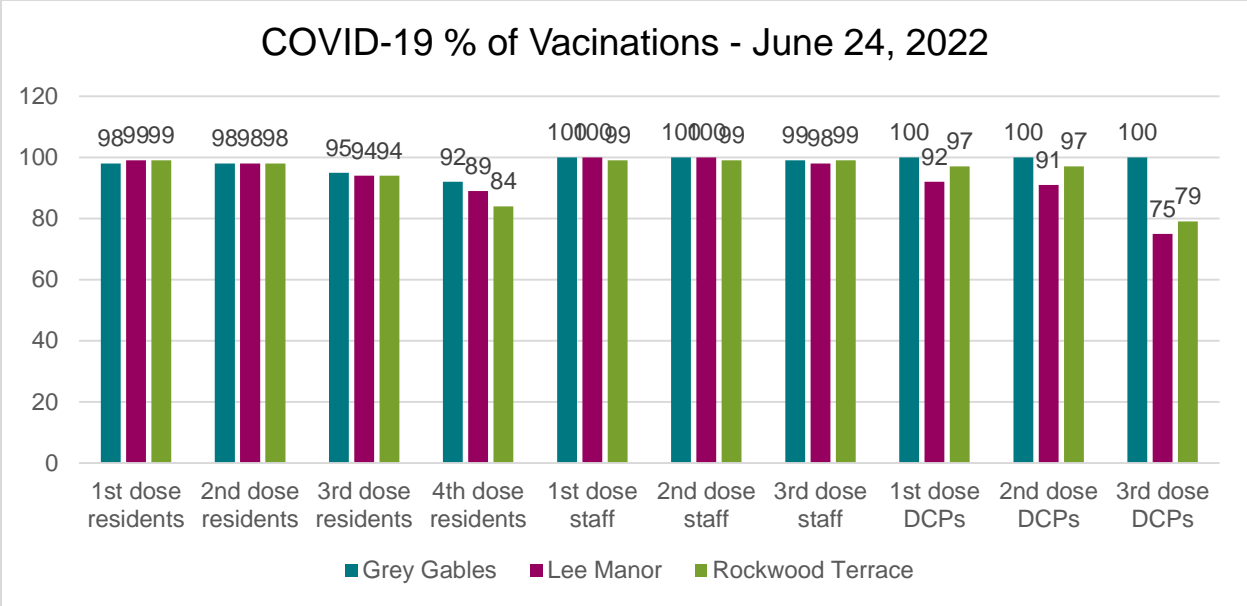
COVID-19 Outbreak

On May 14th, a COVID-19 Outbreak was declared on 3 North at Lee Manor. The outbreak affected 15 residents and 9 staff. Results identified the infectious agent as B1.1 Omicron variant. The outbreak was declared over on June 4, 2022.

On May 29th, a COVID-19 Outbreak was declared on 3 South at Lee Manor. The outbreak affected 6 residents and 0 staff. The outbreak was declared over on June 9, 2022.

During the outbreaks, Public Health was onsite to conduct IPAC assessments. On both home areas, HEPA filter units were utilized to maximize air quality. Hand hygiene audits were increased, and de-escalation measures were gradually introduced for residents that had recovered or tested negative.

Vaccination



Active Screening and Surveillance Testing

To support our active screening process, our electronic screening tool was updated to identify individuals that are not eligible for rapid antigen testing due to recent COVID-19 infection. The tool includes the date of infection, which auto populates the 90-day exemption period.

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

On June 7th, 2022, the Chief Medical Officer of Health announced to continue to protect the most vulnerable, [masking requirements](#) would remain in place for long term care and retirement homes.

Visitors

A [virtual family meeting](#) was held on May 25th to provide an update related to the Fixing Long Term Care Homes Act requirements. Grey County’s updated Visitor’s policy was also discussed along with the introduction of the new risk assessment tool for unvaccinated visitors.

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.

IPAC Strategies

All three homes have purchased their own Porta Count machine for mask fit testing. An onsite machine will assist the homes with ongoing testing during orientation and the regular retest schedules. Grey County’s Corporate H & S Manager has been onsite, providing training to the mask fit testing team at each home.

Staffing

Each home continues to onboard new staff. Many students have returned to their roles for the summer months, which will help support staffs' vacation.

Recently, the PSW Coordinator job description was reviewed, and title updated to Resident Care Coordinator. The role remains focused on the planning, directing and coordination of non-clinical resident care to ensure Colour It Your Way person-centered care is provided. Recruitment process is underway for two new Resident Care Coordinators. This evening leadership position will support the teams at Grey Gables and Lee Manor.

To support staff, students and volunteers, the administration of tuberculosis screening and skin testing will take place onsite. This initiative will assist the onboarding process, as well as reduce barriers for our staff in obtaining the required testing.

Recovery and Wellness

All three homes released their 2nd quarter Wellness Newsletter at the end of June. The wellness newsletter promotes our EAP Program, wellness tips and resources, Colour It Spirit photos, and each home's Colour It stories.

June was Senior's Month in Ontario. To celebrate, the Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club, in partnership with the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team and the 19 Long Term Care Homes across Grey Bruce, are recognizing those who live and work in long-term care. The Rotary Club distributed "Kindness Lives and Works Here" banners to the 19 long term care homes in Grey and Bruce.

Finance

The Ministry released the first payment to homes for the Temporary Retention Intention for registered staff on May 23rd. The Finance and Human Resources departments worked with the homes to identify registered staff that were eligible for this incentive.

The Ministry has also made the transition to the Permanent Wage Enhancement for PSW's ensuring the \$3 an hour extra remains in place. Finance continues to keep record for separate reporting requirements.

Prevention and Containment Expenditure Reporting has been completed for June 30th for related Covid eligible expenditures, the Ministry has provided funding to LTC homes until March 31, 2023.

10-year capital preparations are under way and a report will be presented at the next Long Term Care Committee on August 23, 2022.

FLTCA Update

An FLTCA education session was presented to each homes' Resident and Family Council. The homes are also actively seeking resident and family participation for internal working groups.

The Ministry released the [Cooling and Air Temperatures Requirements for Long Term Care Homes](#). As of June 22, 2022, all resident rooms are required to be served by air conditioning unless limited exemption criteria are met. The document includes cooling requirements, air temperature, strategies, interventions, monitoring indoor and outdoor conditions. Our current HVAC systems meet the requirements.

Advantage Ontario invited Grey County Long Term Care to present an Emergency Management Planning presentation to their members on June 29th. An overview was provided on the steps and actions taken to implement the changes for emergency planning.

Collaboratively, the Long Term Care Committee surveyed the 19 long term care homes in Grey and Bruce with the intent to identify interest for working group committees. These groups consist of the FLTCA, IPAC Lead Collaborative, ALC Strategy, Health Human Resources and Wellness & Recovery. The expertise among the 19 homes is valuable and will provide additional support and resources across long term care.

Grey County's has implemented the following changes:

- Updated Bill of Rights has been posted at all three homes.
- Updating Policies and Procedures
- Updated education on our eLearning platform; Bill of Rights, Complaints Management, Whistle Blowing policies
- Emergency Management Planning policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated. Homes are currently reaching out to consult with all our vendors, and emergency service partners.
- Quality Improvement Plans were submitted in June.
- Web Requirements completed, including updating contact information, complaints management process, along with all methods of reporting complaint to Ministry, links to our visitor and designated care partner policies, Quality Improvement Plan, Emergency Management Plan.
- Air Conditioning: our current HVAC systems meet the requirements
- Menu Planning, Nutrition Managers and Registered Dietitians are updating processes and menus.
- Direct Care Hours – average of three direct care hours per resident by March 31, 2022.
Current hours:
 - Grey Gables- 3.24 direct care hours
 - Lee Manor – 3.258 direct care hours
 - Rockwood Terrace – 3.304 direct care hours
- Medical Directors have been updated stating new requirements and their agreement is being reviewed at the July Medical Director meeting.

Partnerships

Work continues with partnerships at both regional and local levels. The Grey Bruce Long Term Care Committee and healthcare partners are meeting on a monthly basis.

Collaborative work continues with the YMCA Employment Services to promote the fully funded PSW program. An introduction to Long Term Care Orientation session was held on June 13th at Grey Gables for new students. This session provided an overview of the PSW role in long term care along with a tour of the home.

The Research Institute for Aging recently held a virtual “Walk with Me – Changing the Culture of Aging in Canada” session on May 26th and 27th. During the session, the 2022 Trailblazers were recognized for making strides in changing the culture of aging through initiatives, programs, or their day-to-day practice. I am pleased to share that Grey County's Long Term Care “Colour It

Your Way” promise initiative was one of the 17 organizations across Canada to be recognized for this culture change.

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

- None