



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Chair and Members of the Committee of Management
<b>Committee Date:</b>	January 12, 2021
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	LTCR-CM-02-21
<b>Title:</b>	LTC COVID 19 Update
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<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	
<b>Status:</b>	

## Recommendation

- 1. That report LTCR-CM-02-21 regarding a Long-Term Care COVID-19 Status Update be received for information.**

## Executive Summary

As we begin 2021, our care communities have stayed strong and maintained vigilance to ensure our residents, caregivers and staff are safe and COVID free. Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures continue to be in place, PPE supplies are ordered on a regular basis and all locations maintain a minimum 8-week supply. Long Term Care healthcare workers have been identified by the province as priority for receiving COVID vaccine. Plans are underway to support vaccination for staff as vaccine becomes available. Guidelines and process for rapid testing has recently been provided by the Ministry of Long Term Care to support staff surveillance testing.

## Updates

### Testing

With the current system of every 14-day mandatory surveillance testing of all staff, false positives are a risk. Grey Gables experienced this early in May. Lee Manor managed a false positive on November 9<sup>th</sup> and quickly transitioned into full outbreak protocols. It was suspected to be a false positive and on November 12<sup>th</sup>, Public Health confirmed this.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> Public Health declared a COVID Outbreak at Lee Manor after a symptomatic staff member tested positive. The outbreak was confined to one home area and droplet and contact precautions were put in place immediately. COVID testing was conducted on all staff and residents in the affected area and all tests returned negative. On December 21<sup>st</sup> Public Health declared the Outbreak over.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> Ministry updates regarding the [Long Term Care Surveillance Testing strategy](#) were released and effective November 23<sup>rd</sup> County of Grey long term care staff were notified that mandatory biweekly COVID testing would begin. Our Designated Care Partners (DCP) were also notified that they would now be required to provide proof of negative COVID test within the last 14 days. All three care communities are committed to easy access to testing and continue to offer onsite testing for staff and DCPs throughout the week. If our area moved into the orange, red or lockdown region, mandatory testing will be once a week for both staff and DCPs. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, [Directive #3](#) was updated to reflect admissions and transfers from hospital, absences, managing visitors and testing.

On January 8, 2021 the MOLTC circulated an updated Directive and guidance documents that expand the surveillance testing of staff to include Rapid Antigen Screening. We are working with Public Health and our clinical teams to determine next steps for the use of rapid testing on site.

### Visiting and DCP Program

December 26, 2020 Ontario began a province wide lockdown requiring the staff and Designated Care Partners in each home to be tested every 7 days. General visitors into the home are also suspended for the 28-day period.

Our clinical team regularly review the status of short stay absences/day trips for residents and these outings remain temporarily suspended due to the increased number of cases in the area. To ensure family and friends had opportunities to plan their holiday visit, our online booking tool was modified to allow visits to be booked up to 3 weeks in advance. Over the Holiday season, residents enjoyed innovative programs including virtual church services, concerts and making a holiday iMovie.

Our virtual, window and indoor visits continue but due to the weather conditions the outdoor stations have been removed. The homes have made some modifications to the window stations to protect the visitor from the elements. Designated Care Partner Experience surveys were released the week of November 9<sup>th</sup> to Residents, DCPs and staff. The results were very encouraging;

Overall, are you satisfied with the Designated Care Partner Program?

- 100% of Residents answered “yes”.

- 94% DCPs answered “somewhat to very satisfied”.
- 87% of Staff answered “yes”.

On average in the last month, how often did you perform your role as DCP?

- 10% visited everyday
- 32% visited at least 3 times per week
- 45% visited once per week

How confident do you feel that the infection prevention and control procedures in place at the care community keep you safe while you were visiting?

- 98% of DCPs answered “somewhat confident to extremely confident”.

In your opinion, do you feel confident that the care community has adequate supply of PPE for DCPs?

- 96% of staff answered “yes”.

Work continues with the Evaluation Collaborative group and the survey information will be used as part of the research project with the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI) LTC+ Acting on Pandemic Learning Together Program. CFHI has recognized Grey County as a leading organization that has developed tools and resources that could support other organizations to reintegrate essential care partners. To assist other organizations with the essential care partner program we have shared our staff education, appeal process and our communication updates which will be available in English and French versions. Updates will be provided as we work through the process.

### Staffing

Recruitment of staff continues. Recently the Clinical Specialist position was awarded to Denna Leach and she will begin on February 8, 2021. This position will support the clinical teams at all three locations.

### Funding

The Ministry provided the County direction for the Personal Support Workers (PSW) pandemic wage enhancement of an additional \$3.00/hour to be paid to the LTC licensees in two installments; December 2020 and again in January 2021. HR, Finance and the payroll team, has worked through the details and funds will be disbursed to eligible staff the week of January 22, 2021. Further payments will be made to staff the week of March 5 and April 16<sup>th</sup>.

One-time Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) funding was released and each location has implemented an RPN lead who will assist with interval testing, additional RN hours to support IPAC strategies and is supporting additional education for all staff.

### Vaccination

COVID-19 vaccine preparation and planning is well underway. We are working closely with and under the direction of Public Health to prepare for the arrival of COVID vaccine. Public Health advises that we can expect a small delivery of Pfizer BioNTech mRNA by the end of this month. Long Term Care workers have been identified by the province as the first group to receive vaccine. The rollout of vaccine will be a phased approach and the doses received will be divided throughout the 19 long term care homes in Grey Bruce. This is extremely welcome news.

## Partnerships

Work continues with partnerships at both regional and local levels. The Grey Bruce Long Term Care Committee and Public Health IPAC meetings continues every two weeks. Regular meetings continue with the Southwest Region Pandemic Planning, Wave 2 Response and the Grey Bruce Integrated Health Coalition, these groups play a critical role in ongoing pandemic planning and preparation.

Going forward work continues on outbreak strategies, implementing new COVID educational resources/toolkit, managing and monitoring PPE supplies. To improve team member communication, we have implemented a LTC email group that will allow us to reach all staff and keep them informed and up to date with Corporate communications. We continue to be 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

[MOLTC Update to the Minister's Directive: COVID-19 LTC Surveillance Testing and Access to Home regarding the implementation of Rapid Antigen Testing](#)

[LTC COVID 19 Vaccine Memo Update January 8 2021](#)

[Dec 31 20 Revised Visiting Policy](#)