



Committee Report

To:	Chair and Members of the Committee of Management
Committee Date:	March 9, 2021
Subject / Report No:	LTCR-CM-07-21
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:	
Status:	Endorsed by Committee of Management March 9, 2021 CM10-21;

Recommendation

- 1. That report LTCR-CM-07-21 regarding a Long-Term Care COVID-19 Status Update be received for information.**

Executive Summary

On March 15, 2020 Grey Bruce Public Health announced the confirmation of the first two COVID-19 cases in our community. As news of the virus increased, our care communities implemented enhanced infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures at the end of January 2020 to help protect our residents, families, and team members. Working closely with Public Health and providing the necessary IPAC tools our care communities have been strong and vigilant. These measures have continued to grow over the year to provide additional protection and will be ongoing strategies for our day to day operations and outbreak management procedures into the future.

Updates

Vaccination

On February 20th and 21st Public Health led successful vaccination clinics and administered the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine to 528 Designated Care Partners and team members to the three Grey County Care Communities. On February 22nd Public Health announced that all 19 long term care homes in Grey and Bruce have received the 1st dose of vaccine for all residents, caregivers and team members who had

consented. We received notification on February 23rd from Public Health that the second Moderna dose would be arriving for residents the week of March 1st. The 2nd dose resident vaccine clinic was held March 1st at Rockwood Terrace, March 2nd at Lee Manor and March 3rd at Grey Gables. This is exciting news and we look forward to future vaccination clinics.

Surveillance Testing

Updated [memo](#) was received from MOLTC on February 16th, that outlined the transition from PCR testing to the Rapid Antigen Testing. On February 18th we also received an updated [FAQ](#) for Rapid Antigen Testing. Noted in the directive, long term care homes could utilize the Rural, Remote and Northern Community exception that allowed one PCR Test and one Antigen Test on separate days within a seven-day period. Feedback was received from the 19 LTC Homes in our area and close to 60% utilized the exception. Our care communities declined the option and implemented rapid testing for Designated Care Partners (DCP) on February 22nd and then phased in the testing for all team members on February 28th. Currently all DCPs and team members are on the same frequency schedule; every other day in a 7 day period, If a DCP or team member is scheduled/visits only once or twice in a 7 day period they will be tested on the “day of” regardless of whether the 2 consecutive days are consecutive days. We continue to recruit for support staff and our clinical teams will continue to assess the testing procedure and will make recommendations as we continue to work through the logistics.

Mandatory Third-Party Oversight for active screening was implemented on February 22nd and is being provided by Fairmount Security. Education has been provided to oversight staff and their role will include oversight along with active screening when necessary.

Visiting and DCP Program

Our region returned to the yellow-protect zone on February 16th and green-prevent on March 1st. General visits and window visits are permitted in these categories but as an extra precaution due to the new variant our three locations suspended these visits until our rapid testing process was rolled out. As the weather was improving, we had inquiries regarding window visits and on February 25th these visits were reactivated. Virtual and/or window visits continue to be booked through the Colour It Connect online booking tool. The logistics required to support general visits are being worked on by each team. We need to be able to safely support rapid testing for each general visitor, screening and safe space for the general visit to take place. We recognize the negative impact of restrictive visiting protocols and isolation and so we are committed to finding a safe way to support this important aspect of our residents' overall wellbeing.

Our Designated Care Partner program also was affected by the lockdown and as our region reopened the number of DCPs per resident visit has been increased back to two. We continue to meet with the Evaluation Collaborative groups and are preparing the next steps to the research project. Additional Grey County Resident, DCP and Team Member surveys will be released this month to gather additional feedback.

Staffing

Recruitment of staff continues; work continues with the YMCA and Georgian College for future educational opportunities for ESWs and CSAs to further their career in healthcare.

The province released information that they are investing over \$115 million to train up to 8,200 new personal support workers in Ontario. Georgian College is one of 24 colleges to offer the fully funded accelerated PSW course starting in April. The registration for this accelerated PSW program opened on Monday, March 8th. This tuition-free opportunity is expected to take only 6 months to complete, rather than the typical eight months, and includes a combination of course work and experiential learning including a three-month paid onsite training in an LTC home or in home and community care.

In addition to the tuition-free opportunity, the province is also offering tuition assistance to students who are close to finishing an existing PSW program at one of the publicly assisted colleges. The province stated that nearly 2,200 students will be eligible to receive a \$2,00 tuition grant to help them complete their studies and a stipend to complete the clinical placement as part of their training.

Outbreak

On February 22nd, Public Health declared a Gastrointestinal Outbreak at Grey Gables. Outbreak measures were quickly initiated as the team worked closely with Public Health. A small number of residents and staff on the Pine Ridge home area displayed one symptom only. The affected area was closed, and tray service provided to the entire wing. To reduce the risk of spread, DCPs were reduced to one DCP per resident on Pine Ridge only. All other DCPs received communication and IPAC reminders. The outbreak was declared over on February 27th.

Funding

On February 19, 2021, additional COVID-19 funding was announced as part of the Ministry of Long-Term Care's ongoing effort to assist with prevention and containment efforts. The funding model used by the Ministry has been updated to increase the per bed allocation from \$200 to \$360. The new funding model also anticipates that homes with active and resolved COVID-19 outbreaks incur more expenses to support further

prevention and containment efforts and is providing \$10,000 baseline funding and \$300 per bed allocation in additional funding to homes with active or resolved outbreaks. These increases provide additional support to homes. The Ministry transferred two tranches of funding for January and February 2021.

Under this new funding model, Grey Gables received \$36,500 per month for a total of \$73,000. Lee Manor received \$121,700 per month for a total of \$243,400. Rockwood Terrace received \$58,700 per month for a total of \$117,400.

Partnerships

Work continues with partnerships at both regional and local levels. The Grey Bruce Long Term Care Committee and healthcare partners continue to meet regularly. The long-term care homes also attend Public Health led meetings 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, managing and monitoring and ordering weekly PPE supplies to maintain a minimum 8-week supply.

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

[Minister's Letter - Prevention & Containment Funding - Feb 19, 2021](#)

[ADM Letter - Prevention & Containment Funding - Feb 19, 2021](#)