

April 15, 2020

STATEMENT

The Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) released the following statement related to the Ontario Government's COVID-19 Action Plan: Long-Term Care Homes.

"Ontario's long-term care homes are at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19, and the provincial government's action plan is another meaningful step to protect our most vulnerable when they need it most. Premier Ford, Minister Fullerton and the Ontario Cabinet have responded quickly from the start, and today's announcement means increased infection control and prevention measures and resources to ensure resident and staff health and safety continues to be the top priority as the pandemic evolves.

Ontario's long-term care homes face complex challenges, particularly related to staffing, unlike any other component of the integrated healthcare system. Now is the time to come together and rally around our seniors to address these challenges and overcome the significant threat of COVID-19. That starts with empowering long-term care homes with the infection control prevention measures and resources they need to retain and attract staff and ensure they can do their important work safely. Frontline workers are heroes, and while the long-term care action plan will take careful implementation, restricting them to a single site in addition to more testing, personal protective equipment and hospital and homecare supports will be fundamental to stabilizing homes. This adds to [Link2LTC](#), a new platform launched by Ontario Long Term Care Association that connects qualified students with paid opportunities at homes for non-care related activities to ensure nurses and personal support workers can focus on critical care.

Ontario's long-term care homes are at the heart of their communities, and understand the needs of residents and staff best. The Ontario Government's long-term care action plan helps address some of the systemic issues to ensure Ontario's long-term care homes are the strongest when we need them to protect the most vulnerable."

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