

June 19, 2020

STATEMENT

Ontario's Long-Term Care Homes Urge Ontario Government to Implement COVID-19 Wave 2 Action Plan, Prepare for Potential Second Wave

The Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA), representing a majority of the province's long-term care homes, is calling on the Government of Ontario to implement a COVID-19 Wave 2 Action Plan for Long-Term Care to protect seniors and avoid a repeat of the devastating tragedy experienced as the province grappled with this unprecedented virus.

The government's April COVID-19 Action Plan helped to successfully stabilize Ontario's long-term care homes and ensured that 8 out of 10 long-term care homes were able to prevent or quickly contain COVID-19 with no loss of life through the first wave.

"The Ontario Government launched a COVID-19 Action Plan in mid-April which was a successful turning point in helping long-term care homes through the first wave, but we can't let up the pedal with a potential second wave coming as early as this summer," said Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario Long Term Care Association. "Based on lessons learned to date, a COVID-19 Wave Two Action Plan for Long-Term Care will mean urgent supports to help Ontario's long-term care homes protect the health and safety of residents and the hardworking staff who care for them during the ongoing pandemic. We must remain vigilant and be ready for the next wave."

The OLTCA is calling on the Ontario Government to implement a COVID-19 Wave Two Action Plan for Long-Term Care:

- **Continue prioritization of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and enhanced testing and logistics for long-term care**
- **Train, certify and hire an army of Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Specialists**
- **Enhance long-term care medical and clinical support, including through digitally-enabled care**
- **Enhance and support long-term care pharmacy**
- **Retrofit older homes to enable effective infection prevention and control**
- **Expedite the capital re/development program**
- **Continue staffing flexibility to hire new talent and create new roles**

- **Focus on performance monitoring and public accountability**
- **Better integrate long-term care into the broader health system**

The Action Plan will be successful if enabled by legislative and regulatory flexibility, clear and consistent communication across all levels of pandemic response system, and funding flexibility and enhanced support.

“Premier Ford and his Ontario Cabinet have been true partners to long-term care homes, providing critical supports while prioritizing those who need the help the most,” said Duncan. “As the economy opens up, and ahead of a potential second wave, we must do everything we can to protect Ontario’s seniors and those who care for them.”

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