

June 4, 2021

A message for our families

Since the day COVID vaccines became available, we have continued to strongly encourage and support all staff, residents and families to get immunized to protect their own health and help prevent the spread of disease. COVID-19 vaccines have proven safe and effective, and as the province receives a steady supply of doses, Ontarians are rolling up their sleeves in a big way.

To maintain momentum and help protect long-term care (LTC) residents, staff and families, the Ministry has introduced a new Directive requiring all LTC Homes to implement a COVID-19 immunization policy, effective July 1, 2021.

While the new policy does not make LTC staff immunization mandatory, it does require all staff in our Homes to:

1. Provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, or
2. Provide a medical note for exemption, or
3. Participate in an educational program on the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.

The Ministry has also just announced further changes to visitor and absence policies to support resident quality of life as well as updates to testing guidance for LTC Homes, effective June 9, 2021. We are carefully reviewing these changes to ensure a safe and smooth implementation for all and will share more information shortly.

We are extremely grateful that LTC was prioritized in the early stages of the vaccine rollout, as we've seen a dramatic decrease in COVID outbreaks and cases in LTC Homes across the province. We continue to work towards having onsite access to vaccines to support our ability of maintaining our high vaccination rates in our Homes.

We appreciate the continued support and understanding from our families as we closely follow Ministry directives and public health guidance to protect everyone in our Homes. As always, please reach out to the Executive Director of your specific peopleCare Home with any questions.