

October 15, 2020

To Owners/Operators of Long-Term Care Homes

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

**Re: Restrictions**

I am of the opinion that the risk of acquiring COVID-19 infection is increasing in our communities. The number of community-acquired cases in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph is increasing along with other concerning indicators such as a reproductive number of 1.2, a rate of cases for the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of 14.7 per 100,000, and increasing percent positivity of COVID-19 tests. For these reasons, I am recommending that all Long-Term Care Homes follow Directive #3, as issued on October 14, 2020.

Further to the above, I am also requesting that all Long-Term Care Homes:

- Restrict essential care givers and general visitors to a maximum of one (1) person per resident, at a time;
- Discontinue short-term and temporary absences. I am requesting that residents leave the Home only for essential purposes (i.e. medical appointments) and discontinue all other absences, except for medical or compassionate reasons;
- Discontinue in-person tours and replace with virtual tours; and
- Social activities should not be permitted unless the facility can always maintain resident safety through: (i) physical distancing, of at least two (2) metres, at all times; (ii) adhering to IPAC measures; (iii) ensuring enhanced environmental cleaning; and (iv) the use/wearing of face coverings/masks (if tolerated).

Active screening of all staff and visitors must continue for anyone entering the Home, except for first responders, in emergency situations, who should be permitted entry without screening.

Active screening and assessment of all residents must continue, including temperature checks, at least twice daily (at the beginning and end of the day), to identify if any resident has fever, cough or other symptoms of COVID-19.

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Thank you for your continued dedication and work to keep the residents living in your facility safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicola Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health and CEO

c.c. Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health, WDGPH – via e-mail