

**Ministry for Seniors
and Accessibility**

Office of the Deputy Minister

6th Floor, Suite 600
College Park
777 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2J4
Tel.: 416 212-2316

**Ministère des Services aux
aînés et de l'Accessibilité**

Bureau du sous-ministre

6^e étage, bureau 600
College Park
777, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 2J4
Tél. : 416 212-231

June 9, 2020

Dear Retirement Home Licensees:

Re: COVID-19 Testing for Retirement Homes

Together with our partners in the Ministry of Health, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility has been closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in retirement homes across Ontario. The health and well-being of seniors remains a priority for our government and testing is an important part of the ongoing strategy to keeping retirement home residents safe.

The Province is asking all retirement homes to ensure that all staff participate in ongoing surveillance testing. Testing should be done every two weeks and include all individuals working in the retirement home (e.g., front-line workers, management, food-service workers, contracted service providers, basic aids and guest attendants).

Testing will be coordinated by Ontario Health (OH) regions, who will provide retirement homes with testing requisition forms for staff to bring to their local Assessment Centre to be tested. Retirement homes should contact their regional partners to receive a requisition for testing for any staff who has not been tested within the preceding 14-day period. These requisition forms will help provide important data that will inform future testing strategies for retirement homes.

Additionally, surveillance testing of residents in retirement homes identified as red or yellow by Public Health Units will begin this month. For these homes, testing action plans will be put in place and supported by the Ontario Health regions. Homes in outbreak will continue to be managed and tested by Public Health. For more information, please review the Frequently Asked Questions document attached with this memo.

In the coming weeks and months, the results of testing will be monitored to inform our longer-term testing plan for retirement homes. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to improving the quality of care for seniors in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Denise Cole
Deputy Minister, Seniors and Accessibility



Matthew Anderson
President and CEO, Ontario Health

- c: Mr. Michael Thomas, Acting Chief of Staff to Minister for Seniors and Accessibility
Ms. Jacqueline Cureton, Assistant Deputy Minister, Seniors and Accessibility
Policy, Programs and Strategic Partnerships Division
Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health
Mr. Jay O'Neill, CEO and Registrar, Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority
Ms. Cathy Hecimovich, CEO, Ontario Retirement Communities Association
Ms. Catherine Brown, President, Shared Services, Ontario Health
Dr. Dirk Huyer, Chief Coroner for Ontario