

June 17, 2021

MEMO TO: Retirement Home Licensees

FROM: Jacqueline Cureton
Assistant Deputy Minister

SUBJECT: O. Reg. 317/21 (Agreements Between Health Service Providers and Retirement Homes) under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* ending on June 16, 2021

The Government of Ontario continues to implement a wide array of measures to protect the health and safety of Ontarians, including expanding the necessary supports for public hospitals to focus on delivering patient care.

You may recall, in response to the rapid rise in hospitalizations in late April, the government re-established an emergency order (EO) through [O. Reg. 317/21](#) (Agreements between Health Service Providers and Retirement Homes). The EO was intended to support the transfer of alternate level care (ALC) patients to retirement homes.

Due to the success of provincial measures and widespread vaccination efforts, the province has seen a significant reduction in COVID-19 cases and pressures on hospitals have eased. On June 2, 2021, the [Ministry of Health communicated](#) that the provisions in O. Reg. 272/21 (Transfer of Hospital Patients) and O. Reg. 271/21 (Work Redeployment for Local Health Integration Networks and Ontario Health) relating to long-term care home and retirement homes are no longer required. These provisions were revoked effective June 2, 2021.

In view of improvements to health system capacity and the removal of provisions to enable transfers of ALC patients to retirement homes under O. Reg. 272/21, it has also been determined that O. Reg. 317/21 (Agreements between Health Service Providers and Retirement Homes) is no longer necessary. Accordingly, effective June 16, 2021, O. Reg. 317/21 has been revoked.

The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility will continue to work with the Ministry of Health to address the needs of the retirement homes sector as Ontario implements its three-step plan, *Roadmap to Reopen*.

Thank you for all that you are doing to protect the health and safety of retirement home residents and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Jacqueline Cureton
Assistant Deputy Minister

- c: Denise A. Cole, Deputy Minister, Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
- Jay O'Neill, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority
- Cathy Hecimovich, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Retirement Communities Association
- Tara Wilson, Director, Hospitals Branch, Ministry of Health