

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Office of the Associate Deputy
Minister, Long-Term Care
Pandemic Response
400 University Ave, 6th Fl
Toronto ON M5G 1S5

**Ministère des Soins de longue
durée**

Bureau du sous-ministre associée
Intervention contre la pandémie
pour les soins de longue durée
400, av University, 6^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 1S5

**Ministry for Seniors and
Accessibility**

Assistant Deputy Minister's
Office
777 Bay Street, Suite 601C
Toronto ON M7A 2J4

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

Bureau de la sous-ministre
adjoint
777, rue Bay, bureau 601C
Toronto, ON M7A 2J4

Ministry of Health

Office of the Associate Deputy
Minister, Pandemic Response and
Recovery
56 Wellesley Street West, 10th Fl
Toronto ON M5S 2S3

Ministère de la Santé

Bureau du sous-ministre associée
Intervention contre la pandémie et
relance
56, rue Wellesley Ouest, 10^e étage
Toronto ON M5S 2S3



September 17, 2021

MEMO TO: Long-Term Care Home Licensees
Higher-Risk Retirement Home Licensees
Boards of Health / Public Health Units

FROM: Erin Hannah, Associate Deputy Minister, LTC Pandemic Response,
MLTC
Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and
Recovery, MOH
Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Office
of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOH
Jacqueline Cureton, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy Programs
and Strategic Partnerships, MSAA

SUBJECT: Expediting Third Doses for Residents

We are writing in follow-up to the August 23, 2021 third dose memo which reaffirmed that residents of Long-Term Care (LTC) homes and higher-risk licensed retirement homes are eligible to receive their third dose at least five months following their second dose and that residents will receive their third dose in their residence, either within the homes or through mobile clinics. Over the previous weeks we have seen the significant efforts put forth by both Public Health Units (PHUs) and homes to deliver third doses to residents.

As you know, we are in a fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, driven by the Delta variant which is now the predominant strain circulating in Ontario and is more transmissible and may cause more severe disease than previous strains.

Given the urgency of protecting residents during the fourth wave, **we are setting a target date of October 8, 2021 to provide a third dose to all LTC home and higher-risk licensed retirement home residents who wish to receive one.**

We will continue to monitor the third dose vaccination of all residents through the provincial COVax system on a daily basis. We are asking PHUs and homes to work together to ensure that where homes have set up for self-administration, sufficient vaccine supplies are available in a timely manner and where they are not able to administer the vaccines independently, a plan for administration is developed for other homes to meet the October 8 target date. We continue to encourage LTC and Retirement Homes to onboard for independent vaccine administration for ongoing maintenance as part of a longer term sustainable model of vaccine administration.

In addition, where LTC homes and higher-risk retirement homes do not have the capacity to administer vaccines, we encourage them to partner with local pharmacies. If a pharmacy partnership is pursued, the home would need to work with their PHU and local pharmacy to vaccinate residents on-site.

With respect to LTC homes, PHUs and homes also have the flexibility to work with pharmacists and other health care professionals to administer COVID-19 vaccines in the LTC homes. Per O.Reg. 95/20 (Streamlining Requirements for LTC Homes), LTC homes may adopt flexible practices related to the administration of drugs (including vaccines), provided it is within the scope of practice of the person administering the drug/vaccine.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts made by PHUs, LTC homes and licensed retirement homes, and look forward to supporting your continued collaboration to ensure a successful and expedited third dose campaign.

As always, the ministries are available to support homes and PHUs directly should you have any questions:

- For MLTC-specific questions: MLTCPandemicResponse@ontario.ca
- For MSAA-specific questions: RHInquiries@ontario.ca
- For MOH-specific questions: covid.immunization@ontario.ca

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Erin Hannah

Alison Blair

Dr. Barbara Yaffe

Jacqueline Cureton

c: Nancy Matthews, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)
Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health (MOH)
Denise A. Cole, Deputy Minister, Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Capacity Planning and Analytics Division, MOH/MLTC
Jay O'Neill, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association
Cathy Hecimovich, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Retirement Communities Association
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Michael Jacek, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Colleen Geiger, President and CEO (Acting), Public Health Ontario
Jeff Butler, Assistant Deputy Minister, LTC Pandemic Response, MLTC
Sheila Bristo, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, MLTC
Patrick Decerni, Assistant Deputy Minister, Drugs and Devices Division