

June 24, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO: Retirement Homes

FROM: Jacqueline Cureton, Assistant Deputy Minister
Seniors and Accessibility Policy, Programs and Strategic
Partnerships
Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

SUBJECT: Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility's COVID-19 Guidance
Document for Retirement Homes in Ontario

I am writing to you today to advise on the release of a new Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) COVID-19 Guidance Document for Retirement Homes in Ontario. This document, which is based on the *Retirement Homes Policy to Implement Directive #3*, will act as complementary direction to retirement homes to assist in the implementation of the Ministry of Health's *COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units*.

On June 11, 2022, a memorandum was released by the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) to the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA), directing retirement homes to implement the policies, procedures, and preventative measures in the Ministry of Health's *COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units* following the revocation of the remaining CMOH Directives.

Following the release of that memorandum, MSAA consulted with sector partners and received feedback that greater clarity is required to ensure the appropriate preventative measures are in place to address the specific needs of the retirement home sector.

As a result of those discussions, MSAA developed the *MSAA COVID-19 Guidance Document for Retirement Homes in Ontario* to ensure retirement homes continue to implement the requirements that have applied to the sector prior to June 11, 2022.

Operators can expect the release of an updated *COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units* document shortly to accompany MSAA's guidance.

As always, we thank you for your cooperation and patience as we navigate the continuously evolving COVID-19 environment. Our continued objective is to protect the safety of the retirement home sector while balancing the mental and physical well-being of residents.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Jacqueline Cureton
Assistant Deputy Minister

- c: Carlene Alexander, Deputy Minister, Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
- Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Jay O'Neill, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority
- Cathy Hecimovich, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Retirement Communities Association
- Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario