

November 24, 2023

MEMO TO: Retirement Home Operators and Licensees

FROM: Marsha Pinto, Interim Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy, Programs and Strategic Partnerships Division
Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

SUBJECT: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine for Residents in
Retirement Homes (RHs) Licensed to Provide Dementia Care

Throughout the fall respiratory illness season, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) has been committed to supporting RHs in vaccination planning and the mitigation of any potential barriers to vaccine access for RH residents. As noted in the [Fall Preparedness Memo sent by MSAA on October 6, 2023](#), vaccines continue to be the best defense against severe respiratory outcomes.

This year, in addition to the Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, the Ministry of Health is offering a publicly funded Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine program for all residents of RHs licensed to provide dementia care. Residents over 60 years of age residing in these homes are eligible to receive the vaccine.

The RSV vaccine distribution is managed through the local Public Health Units (PHUs). RHs are encouraged to support independent RSV vaccine administration, where possible, and to contact their local PHU for more information regarding ordering, logistics and vaccine administration planning. The attached RSV patient fact sheet should be used support RH operator conversations with residents about the benefits of this vaccine.

If you have any questions, please contact MSAA's Retirement Homes Branch at RHInquiries@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Marsha Pinto

c: Melissa Thomson, Deputy Minister, MSAA and MLTC
Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, OCMOH
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