

Ministry of Health

Office of Chief Medical Officer
of Health, Public Health

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Ministère de la Santé

Bureau du médecin hygiéniste
en chef, santé publique

Boîte à lettres 12
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

April 19, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jay O'Neill, Registrar, Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority

FROM: Dr. Kieran Moore

RE: COVID-19 Public Health Measures in Retirement Homes

I am writing to inform you about updated public health recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in retirement homes. This memo hereby revokes and replaces my memo dated June 10, 2022.

As you are aware, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) continues to work collaboratively with colleagues at the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) to ensure that preventive COVID-19 measures remain in place in retirement homes, given that residents are older and have higher rates of medical complexities and are therefore more susceptible to severe outcomes from COVID-19 than the general population. I am recommending that retirement homes implement policies, procedures and preventative measures in the Ministry of Health's Recommendations for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Institutions and Congregate Living Settings to reduce the risk of COVID-19 among residents of retirement homes. Additionally, I recommend retirement homes follow any sector-specific guidance MSAA issues to retirement homes.

This memorandum constitutes guidance, advice, or recommendations given to retirement homes by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, which the licensee of a retirement home shall ensure are followed in the retirement home in accordance with clause 27(5) (0.a) of O. Reg. 166/11 under the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*. This memorandum to the retirement home sector is being issued due to the vulnerability of the population in retirement homes and the continued risk of COVID-19 within Ontario.

I kindly request that the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority distribute my recommendation with the retirement home sector as expediently, as possible.

Thank you for your collaboration and dedication to the COVID-19 response in Ontario retirement homes.

Sincerely,

Kieran Michael Moore