



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Information, Heritage and Seniors Committee  
**From:** Suzanne Dronick, Wellington Terrace LTCH Administrator  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Update

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### Background:

#### Modified Step Two

In response to the temporary move into a modified Step Two, the following applies to Long-term care:

#### Gathering Among Residents

- The Residents can and should continue to socialize and gather in small groups within the home, unless under specific isolation and droplet/contact precautions. Caregivers who have three vaccine doses can join small gatherings with residents.
- While the specific limit to social gatherings under the Roadmap to Reopen (of five people indoors) does not apply to LTC homes, each home should determine the size of social gatherings among residents that best reflect the realities of the home from a staffing and space perspective in order to ensure these social opportunities are as safe as possible.

#### Staff Supports: Emergency Childcare

- The government is working to provide free emergency childcare for school-aged children of health care (including LTC) and other eligible frontline workers.

#### Single Site Order and Test to Work

- The Ministry removed the policy under the Limiting Work to a Single Long-Term Care Home Order that restricts fully vaccinated staff from only working in one location when a home is in outbreak. If a staff member is critically required, the decision to bring a staff member back to work should be done in consultation with Public Health.
- The staff member must be actively screened and be rapid antigen tested every day, the same as those under test-to-work who have an ongoing exposure in an outbreak.
- In response to delayed PCR test results, staffing shortages or a need to have staff return under test-to-work (close contact exposure), LTCHs have been advised of applicable testing protocols.

## **Updated LTC COVID-19 Guidance Document**

The Ministry posted the recent changes as follows:

### **Visiting and Absences**

- Entry into the long-term care homes by general visitors has been paused, including outdoor visits. General visitors will continue to be permitted to enter the home to visit residents receiving end-of-life care.
- Day absences for all residents for social purposes are paused. All essential, medical or compassionate absences will continue to be permitted.
- There are updated testing requirements for residents who go on essential, medical or compassionate day absences.

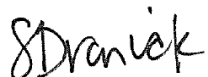
### **Vaccinations**

- Third (booster) dose for all staff, students, volunteers and caregivers is now mandatory.
- Residents of Long-term care homes are eligible for a fourth dose of an mRNA vaccine if at least three months have passed since their third dose.

### **Recommendation:**

That the COVID-19 update be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SDronick'.

Suzanne Dronick  
Wellington Terrace LTCH Administrator