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**From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health**

## **Summary of Key Points for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Outbreak Management**

- **Retirement Homes to follow Guidance for LTCHs where possible.** Retirement homes (those who would be eligible for licensing under the Retirement Homes Act) are to follow the same guidance and direction as that given to LTCHs
- **Active Screening of All Residents.** Active screening must be conducted of all residents, at least twice daily (at the beginning and end of the day) to identify if any resident has fever, cough or other symptoms of COVID-19. Residents with symptoms (including mild respiratory symptoms) must be isolated and tested for COVID-19.
- **Detection of COVID-19 cases.** Homes must consider a single, laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 in a resident as a confirmed respiratory outbreak in the home and put respiratory outbreak control measures in effect immediately.
- **Management of a Single Case in Staff.** Long-term care homes must immediately implement outbreak control measures for a suspect outbreak. Even if the staff exposure was to a specific area of the long-term care home, consideration must be given to applying outbreak control measures to the entire home.
- **Testing.** Testing must be conducted for COVID-19 on every symptomatic resident and staff in the home, including residents who are linked to a COVID-19 outbreak, and including recently deceased residents who were part of the outbreak but who were not previously tested. Do not test asymptomatic residents.
- **Required Steps in an Outbreak.** If an outbreak is declared at the home, there are immediate measures to be implemented: 1. New resident admissions and re-admissions are not allowed until the outbreak is over. 2. Symptomatic residents are to be isolated to their rooms for 14 days. 3. As per usual practice obtain an outbreak number and a full list of control measures from public health.

- **Planning for Cases.** Review advanced care directives are in place for all residents. Plan for care that can be provided at the home for confirmed cases considering that transfer to acute care may not be required in all cases.
- **Co-horting** of both staff and resident cases is a key measure to control a COVID outbreak.
- **Staff Working at Other Facilities.** Facilities should be aware if they have staff who work at other LTCHs, retirement homes or hospitals. During an outbreak, staff working at the Outbreak facility will not be allowed to work at another facility.

For more information please review:

1. [COVID-19 Outbreak Guidance for Long-Term Care Homes \(Ministry of Health\)](#)
2. [COVID-19 Guidance for Long Term Care Homes \(Ministry of Health\)](#)
3. [Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007](#)

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