

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health

Reply: Toronto Public Health
277 Victoria St., 10th Floor, Unit T
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1W2
Tel: 416-392-7457
Fax: 416-338-8149

March 22, 2020

Vanda Cozier
Director of Care
St Clair O'Connor, Toronto

Dear Vanda:

I am writing in follow-up to our conference call today. As you know, two residents on the LTCH at St Clair O'Connor LTCH tested positive for COVID-19 virus today. That means this is a confirmed COVID19 outbreak, and we are recommending stringent precaution measures given the seriousness of COVID19 illness for the frail elderly.

Toronto Public Health (TPH) is making the following recommendations to limit spread to residents and staff:

On LTCH Unit:

1. All residents in the LTCH unit should be in "home isolation" in their rooms, including tray service.
2. Staff entering the room within 2 meters of a resident (including dietary, housekeeping staff and others) should **use droplet and contact precautions** (surgical mask, face shield or goggles, gown, and gloves), even if the resident is asymptomatic.
3. Staff should continue to provide all necessary care and support to the residents while they are in isolation.
4. The LTCH Unit should be cohorted from the rest of the facility as much as possible, including cohorting of staff and equipment. Equipment which cannot be restricted to the LTCH Unit should be cleaned before use elsewhere, particularly high-touch surfaces.
5. All LTCH residents should be monitored twice daily for symptoms, including taking temperatures, so that any new cases can be detected quickly
6. Any residents with new fever or respiratory symptoms should immediately be placed in isolation and managed in droplet and contact PPE. The first 3 residents should have NP swabs done for respiratory viruses (COVID19 testing will be included automatically by the PHOL).
7. Increased cleaning and disinfection, especially of high-touch items and surfaces such as elevator buttons, hand rails, door knobs, etc.
8. All group activities for residents in the entire facility must be discontinued as per the social distancing recommendations made by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.
9. Staff should practice social distancing as much as possible during work and on breaks.
10. **Only** essential visitors will be allowed in the facility in order to further protect the resident and staff, as per Ministry directive.

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Staff:

1. All staff and others entering the Home (contractors, essential visitors, physicians, etc.) should be actively screening for symptoms of COVID-19, including taking temperatures. Anyone who is ill should not enter the Home.
2. All staff must self-monitor for illness and **stay at home if they are sick**. Symptoms to watch out for include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and diarrhea. Staff who become ill at work should go home immediately and self-isolate. Public Health Ontario has fact sheets on how to self-monitor and self-isolate here: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/public-resources> . If any staff develop symptoms, they should notify TPH by calling 416-338-7492 and go to the nearest Assessment Centre for testing for COVID-19 (tell the Assessment Centre the name of the facility).
3. All staff must be cohorted on their units.
4. **All staff at the Home must not work at other healthcare facilities** (i.e. other LTCH/RH or acute care facilities) during this period, in order to prevent spread of COVID-19 to other high-risk settings and patients/residents.
5. Staff who also work in other healthcare settings should speak to their managers at home, and inform Occupational Health and Safety staff at any other healthcare setting in which they work.
6. **Staff in the Home who worked shifts from March 13-22 must be in "work-home isolation"**. They can continue to work on the LTCH unit as scheduled, using a surgical mask when at work (in addition to full PPE for resident care), but should otherwise be in home isolation. All staff must self-monitor for symptoms and **not come to work if they become ill**.
7. All staff who have travelled internationally, including the United States, must self-isolate at home for 14 days after their return to Canada even if asymptomatic.
8. Attending physicians should carry out rounds remotely by video with the help of nursing staff on site, definitely for the LTCH and ideally all Units during this isolation period. In situations where an on-site physician assessment is essential, the physician should use droplet/contact PPE, and limit their visit to the specific resident.



Dr. Michael Finkelstein
Acting Director, Communicable Disease
Control
and Associate Medical Officer of Health

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These measures will need to be in place for at least 14 days – ending April 5th if there are no additional COVID19 cases detected.

Donna Mason continues to be your primary contact at Toronto Public Health – you can reach her at (416) 338-7399 or Donna.Mason-Agard@toronto.ca.

Thanks to you and your team –
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Rea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Elizabeth Rea MD MSc FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health
Toronto Public Health