

**Presentation to the
Long-Term Care COVID-19
Commission- Initial Short-Term
Recommendations**

October 26, 2020



RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Planning and Communications for Successful Outcomes

1. The Province, including the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, should continue ongoing second wave planning and develop a clear strategy for issuing clear direction at appropriate times as conditions change.
2. The Province must have representation from the municipal LTC sector in regional and systems planning and implementation tables.

RECOMMENDATIONS

II. Staffing Measures to Attract and Retain Highly Trained and Qualified Staff

3. The Province should work with the LTC sector to develop a province-wide health human resources strategy to address staffing issues, including overcoming the challenges of insufficient human resources, such as nurses and personal support workers, in certain regions, especially in northern and rural areas.
4. The Province should expand the issuance of pandemic pay to a broader range of staff in LTC homes, including nurses and other staff doing front-line work as well as their supervisors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

II. Staffing Measures to Attract and Retain Highly Trained and Qualified Staff

5. The Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) should extend and maintain the High Wage Transition Fund for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic past March 2021 and consult with AMO and other LTC sector associations about the future of the Fund.
6. The Province must continue to extend the Emergency Orders to allow redeployment of staff into the LTC sector as needed until the pandemic ends or when staffing issues are fully addressed whichever happens first.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

III. Care for Residents During COVID-19

7. The MLTC should provide adequate provincial funding to care for an aging population with complex medical conditions and challenging behaviours such as dementia and commit to full 100% provincial funding for an average of four hours of care per resident per day.
8. The MLTC must immediately reverse the changes and reductions to pharmacy funding during the pandemic and work on alternative options for funding to support LTC pharmacy over the long-term.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

III. Care for Residents During COVID-19

9. That the MLTC enhance specialized support programs, including Behaviour Supports Ontario and specialized Nurse Practitioners to complement staffing levels in long term care homes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

IV. Funding for Viability and Sustainability During COVID-19

10. That the MLTC review the adequacy of the emergency COVID-19 funding against incurred costs through to March 31, 2021, and provide more funding as needed by the LTC sector.
11. That the MLTC provide for and give advance notice as soon as possible about ongoing emergency COVID-19 funding in the 2021-22 fiscal year.
12. That the MLTC increase core operational funding at least at the rate of inflation or higher in both this current fiscal year and next.

RECOMMENDATIONS

IV. Funding for Viability and Sustainability During COVID-19

13. That the MLTC enhance and increase funding for the minor capital funding program to support operators to improve structural compliance and enable more effective IPAC in homes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

V. Increasing Health and Safety

14. That the MLTC and Ministry of Health (MOH) should review the adequacy of IPAC programs under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* in preventing and managing COVID-19 outbreaks and put in place higher standards with increased funding to homes to implement these standards.
15. That the MLTC should provide ongoing and enhanced operational funding to implement effective IPAC measures in homes including training and continue to provide guidance based on health expertise.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

V. Health and Safety

16. That the MOH prioritize COVID-19 testing for LTC home staff, residents and visitors.
17. That the MOH should invest in local public health workforces to both address the needs of the increasing complexity of the pandemic response in LTC homes and maintain critical core public health services at the same time.
18. That the MOH increase Public Health resources for IPAC and outbreak management in LTC and other higher risk settings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

V. Health and Safety

19. That the MLTC and MOH review the IPAC hub and spoke model to ensure that the hospital institutional based approach is mindful, appropriate, and adaptable for LTC home settings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

VI. Mental Health Supports for Residents and Staff

20. That the MOH and the MLTC invest in the resources needed to support the mental health of staff and residents in LTC.
21. That the MLTC and the MOH continue to review and consult the LTC sector associations on appropriate visitors' policies, including for essential caregivers, to strike a balance between health and emotional well-being considerations.