

Ministry of Long-Term Care

New Admissions and Readmissions to Long-Term Care Homes

New Admissions to Long-Term Care Homes

Today's updated Directive #3 and this guidance enable new admissions from either the community or a hospital to LTCHs to begin. In either case, community and hospital placement staff should ensure the following criteria can be met.

1. The receiving home must NOT be currently in a COVID-19 outbreak. Under exceptional circumstances admissions may take place during an outbreak, if it is approved by the local public health unit, and there is concurrence between the home, public health unit and hospital, and the patient or resident is in agreement.
2. The resident has been tested for COVID-19, has a negative result and is transferred to the home within 24 hours of receiving the result or has been confirmed infected and cleared of COVID-19.
3. The receiving home has sufficient staffing and a plan to ensure that the resident being admitted can complete 14-days of self-isolation (except for those who have cleared COVID-19).
4. The admission cannot result in a resident being placed in a room (following self-isolation if relevant) with more than one (1) other resident. That is, there shall be no further placement of residents in 3 or 4 bed ward rooms.

It is important that residents, their families and long-term care homes feel confident in the ability of the long-term care home to provide quality care.

All homes are asked to consider the ability to isolate, in the event of an outbreak, in their determination of rate of admission to the home.

Readmission from Hospital to Long-Term Care Homes

Today's updated Directive #3 and this guidance continue to enable LTC residents who have been admitted to hospital to return to their long-term care homes. When returning a resident back to their home, hospitals and LTC homes should ensure the following criteria are met:

1. It is a readmission to long-term care (the resident is returning to their home)
2. The receiving home must NOT be currently in COVID-19 outbreak. Under exceptional circumstances admissions may take place during an outbreak, if it is approved by the local public health unit, and there is concurrence between the home, public health unit and hospital, and the patient or resident is in agreement.

3. The resident has been tested for COVID-19 at point of discharge, has a negative result and is transferred to the home within 24 hours of receiving the result or has been confirmed infected and cleared of COVID-19
4. The receiving home has a plan to ensure that the resident being readmitted can complete 14-days of self-isolation (except those who have been cleared of COVID-19)
5. The readmission cannot result in a resident being placed in a room (following self-isolation if relevant) with more than one (1) other resident. That is, there shall be no further placement of residents in 3 or 4 bed ward rooms.

There are no restrictions on residents returning to the home from outpatient visits. It is important that residents, their families and long-term care homes feel confident in the ability of the long-term care home to provide quality care. In the case that there is any difference of view between a hospital and long-term care home about the suitability of the return of the resident to the long-term care home, please contact the local placement coordinator/office. If they cannot resolve the issue will be escalated to the ministry.

Today's updated Directive #3 replaced the previous version of Directive #3 issued on May 23 and this guidance replaces the guidance issued by MLTC and MOH on April 25 and April 29th. COVID-19 guidance documents for long-term care homes will be revised to reflect these changes.