



# Interoffice Memorandum

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Laura MacDermaid  
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**Date:** March 28, 2023

**To:** All Staff, Family Caregivers, Residents and  
Volunteers

**Cc:** Tammie Luxton, CUPE 132  
Carmen Brown, ONA Local 16  
Debbie Provost, CUPE 1764  
Jennifer Morden, Labour Relations Advisor  
Gavin Lowe, Labour Relations Advisor

**From:** Laura MacDermaid, Director LTC and Services for  
Seniors

**Subject:** Updated COVID-19 Measures

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As Ontario approaches the end of respiratory illness season, the province is updating its COVID-19 measures in long-term care homes in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health. According to Dr. Moore, "Ontario has reached a point where it can begin a safe, cautious and balanced reduction of public health measures in long-term care homes across the province."

Working with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario is taking a phased approach to updating COVID-19 measures for people living in, working in, or visiting long-term care homes. The first phase involves realigning measures effective March 31, 2023.

**As of March 31, the following are no longer required:**

- Testing of staff, caregivers and visitors who don't show symptoms (asymptomatic)
- Masking outdoors although wearing a mask outdoors continues to be recommended for staff when they are close to a resident.
- Daily temperature checks or screening of residents returning from an absence
- Removing the limit of one caregiver at a time during a COVID-19 outbreak, or when a resident is symptomatic or isolating, unless otherwise recommended by Public Health.
- Physical distancing for social and physical activities

These changes are being adjusted by the province to reflect the high vaccine uptake among residents and the availability of safe and effective antivirals that are reducing the risk of severe outcomes to residents. These changes will bring Ontario into alignment with other provinces across the country that have already made similar adjustments.

**What is not changing at this time:**

- Staff will continue to monitor residents daily to detect for the presence of infection.
- Indoor masking requirements remain in place while in the LTC home.
- Masking when a family member or friend is visiting with a resident in their bedroom is still strongly encouraged.
- Visitors are not permitted to eat or drink during their visit due to masking requirements
- Everyone visiting or working at the LTC home should continue to self-screen and stay away if you are experiencing any symptoms or have had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- We are also reinstating the Visitor Sign In/Out logs as it is important to know who is in the building in the event of an emergency.

Please note that in the event of an outbreak, the home will follow the guidance of the Public Health Department as related to specific protocols that may be reinstated.

The health and safety of residents remains paramount, and we will continue to work with our partners to ensure residents and their families receive the level of care they need and deserve in a comfortable setting, and that residents, families, staff and volunteers are able to live and work in a safe environment.

In closing, as we continue to move to a more normalized environment, I want to express thanks to all of our screeners and surveillance clinic staff and supervisors who have been the gate-keepers in each home, ensuring that only those who passed screening and testing were permitted entry. Thank you for your flexibility and commitment. We could not have done it without you!