

January 5, 2021

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Dear Residents and Long-Term Care (LTC) Home Team Members,

Please share this information widely among residents and encourage feedback. Time is limited for the Ontario Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission feedback sessions and we appreciate your ongoing support for our efforts to promote long-term care home resident voices throughout this pandemic. **Questions? Please contact Melissa McVie** [mmcvie@ontarc.com](mailto:mmcvie@ontarc.com) 1-800-532-0201 x260

## LONG-TERM CARE COVID-19 COMMISSION: RESIDENTS' FEEDBACK

We invite long-term care residents across Ontario to connect with the Ontario Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commissioners to share your experience.

[Click Here for French Version](#)

**BACKGROUND:** [The Ontario Long-Term Care \(LTC\) COVID-19 Commission](#) began in July 2020. The Commission has a clear mandate to investigate how and why COVID-19 spread in LTC homes.

**WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO:** As the Commission continues its investigation, the Commissioners are very interested in continuing to hear from LTC home residents about the impact of the pandemic on residents AND ideas for changes that may help prevent a similar tragedy in the immediate and longer-term future.

OARC is hosting four dedicated, online feedback sessions for residents:

- Wednesday, January 13 | 2 – 3:30 pm ENGLISH
- Wednesday, January 20 | 2 – 3:30 pm ENGLISH
- Wednesday, January 27 | 2 – 3:30 pm FRENCH
- Wednesday, February 3 | 2 – 3:30 pm ENGLISH

If you would like the opportunity to participate in one of the above-noted sessions and engage directly with a Commissioner, please select your preferred session and register here: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/rt/3697751474385309953>

**SPACE IS LIMITED:** Registration is limited to residents living in long-term care homes in Ontario. Space in these meetings will be limited to 8-10 residents per session to ensure that everyone involved has opportunity to share. Please register for only one session.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** These sessions will be recorded for transcription purposes, and the transcripts will be made public on the Commission’s website ([www.ltcommission-commissionsld.ca](http://www.ltcommission-commissionsld.ca)) Please note that although the Commission will not publish your name in the transcript, of the group session, your confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. If this is a concern for you and you would still like to submit your experience, there are some other options you may wish to consider:

1. Provide a written submission Carla Novakovic, the Commission’s Executive Assistant, at [Carla.Novakovic@LTCcommission-CommissionSLD.ca](mailto:Carla.Novakovic@LTCcommission-CommissionSLD.ca) and indicate that you wish for your submission to remain confidential.
  - We may share the general themes expressed in confidential submissions without attribution in any interim or final report.
  - Please note that if the confidential information you provide identifies an immediate risk to the health and safety of an individual or individuals, the Commission may take steps to ensure that this information is shared with those organizations who can address the risk.
  
2. Calling the Commission at (416)-314-4175 or Toll Free: 1-888-333-2614. You may request that the information you share with the Commission in writing or verbally remain confidential.

**The perspective and experiences of residents is essential to the Commission’s work. Your voice and opinions matter. We hope that you will plan to attend consider attending these meetings.**

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## **COVID-19 VACCINATIONS IN LONG-TERM CARE HOMES**

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Long-Term Care have set a target date of January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for all long-term care (LTC) homes in the areas of Toronto, Peel, Windsor Essex and York Region to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. These are the 4 areas of immediate priority, as they were declared ‘grey’ i.e., highest risk for community spread of COVID-19 prior to the provincial lockdown that came into effect on December 26, 2020.

A vaccination clinic will be set up on-site at each LTC home, and each home must be prepared with a list of all the people who intend to receive the vaccination. Consent must be secured for vaccinations to be given. The vaccination program is intended for residents, team members (staff), essential caregivers and support workers who have regular interaction with residents. If someone is on-site the day of the vaccination clinic, and has not been pre-registered, he/she may still be able to receive the vaccination, depending on timing and human resources available.

The recently approved medicine, called Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, will be the primary vaccine used for the LTC vaccination clinics. The Pfizer vaccine, originally piloted at two hospital sites in December 2020 (Ottawa and University Health Network in Toronto), has been given to over 2,500 health care workers who provide care in select LTC homes. The pilot program for these 2 hospital sites has now been expanded to 19 hospitals across Ontario, where LTC team members (staff) and essential caregivers can also go to get vaccinated.

Also, some of the previous restrictions on the movement of the Pfizer vaccine has been removed i.e., approval has now been granted for the Pfizer vaccine to be moved from hospital to a LTC home within a certain number of hours, thereby increasing the availability of the Pfizer vaccine for use within the resident population. Initially, there were restrictions in place on the movement of the Pfizer vaccine due to the critical nature of the storage requirements (the vaccine must be stored in unique freezers, uncommon and unavailable in LTC homes).

The next round of LTC home vaccinations is expected to be released on or around January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will include homes in regions that were previously in the 'red' zone (prior to the provincial lockdown). For details and more information on the stages of provincial vaccination, click here:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/getting-covid-19-vaccine-ontario#phase-1>

To read the letter from Richard Steele, Deputy Minister of Long-Term Care giving LTC homes direction on the COVID-19 Vaccination, click here:

<http://www.ontarc.com/documents/bulletins/20210101DMMemoModerna.pdf>

To read the COVID-19 Vaccination Consent form, click here:

<http://www.ontarc.com/documents/bulletins/20201230COVID19PfizerModernaConsentFormV1.pdf>