
February 10, 2022

Special Webinar with Ministry of Long-Term Care: Session Recording and Resources for Residents

Earlier today, OARC was pleased to host our Ministry partners from the Long-Term Care Pandemic Response team on our Zoom platform for a 1-hour Town Hall style presentation for residents and Residents' Council leaders. This was the first of its kind, and we have government commitment that it will not be the last!

The intention of today's session was to help support resident understanding of the government's phased plan to ease pandemic-related restrictions in LTC homes in the coming few weeks. Our guests were also able to speak to the science and infection control rationale practices that have been and continue to be in effect. A similar webinar was hosted earlier in the week for other sector stakeholders, including Public Health Units. Family/Essential Caregivers will also be invited to a dedicated session next week through Family Council Ontario's platform.

We recognize that the information covered today was very fast paced, thorough, and in some cases quite technical/clinical in nature and might warrant a 're-watch' to help deepen your understanding. We also recognize that our session timing did not allow us to answer every question that was posed. We ask for your patience as we work behind the scenes to consolidate the questions we didn't get to during our live session. We look forward to circulating some responses in some form of a 'next steps document' created in partnership with the Pandemic Response team in a timely manner.

**You may access a full recording of today's webinar session [here](#).
The corresponding slide deck of the presentation is available [here](#).**

For those who appreciate a visual summary of some of the information covered, you might consider looking at this reference document titled, ["What Residents Can Expect."](#)

OARC's Executive Director, Dee Tripp, opened and closed our session today by acknowledging the trauma, disappointment, frustration, loss of residents' rights, dissolution of self-determination and the full range of emotions that residents have been experiencing over the last 2 years. OARC stands firm in the belief that we must work to

promote and apply a more balanced approach when considering the physical health and safety of residents, especially if it comes at a cost of their mental/emotional health and well-being. Many residents in attendance today expressed that they would rather become physically ill with COVID that endure more days and weeks of isolation. Choice is important, clear unambiguous information is important, and being afforded the full rights as citizens is important. Our Ministry partners expressed that they are committed to looking back, uncovering where temporary measures 'may have gone too far' and doing better going forward. They expressed the value of hearing from residents directly to inform the decisions made. OARC is committed to being the conduit through which that knowledge and experiential information is communicated.

Thank you for tuning in today! We look forward to hosting future Town Halls on topics of importance to residents and continuing to work in partnership with government to ensure that residents are part of ongoing conversations as decisions are being made that affect their lived experience.