
September 15, 2022

Information Session for Residents with Ministry Guests Tuesday, September 20 at 10:00am

Residents are invited to attend an information session to hear important updates from the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

Topics will include:

- How [Ontario's Plan to Stay Open](#) connects with long-term care (LTC), including what providing the right care in the right place means and what residents can expect.
- Updates about COVID-19 vaccines.
- New Ministry supports that are available for residents and their LTC homes.

This information session will take place on OARC's virtual Zoom platform on **Tuesday, September 20th from 10am-11am**. Please [register here](#) to join us.

Please note that this session is intended for a resident audience.

Our Ministry partners are hosting separate webinars tailored to LTC licensees (September 15/16) and family care partners (September 21). To help us hear directly from residents, we ask that only residents (or those supporting a resident's participation) register for this webinar.

Upon registration, residents will be invited to submit questions on the topics to be discussed, which will be shared with the speakers before the session so that they can speak about the things that are most important to residents. Questions may also be posed in real-time during the session using the Q&A feature in our Zoom platform.

The OARC team asks that you kindly share this webinar opportunity with residents and Residents' Council leaders in your LTC home.

A recording will be made available following the session on our [website](#).

Bill 7 Implementation to Support Ontario's Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery

The Ontario government is taking steps to implement several key strategies from the [Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#). This includes operationalizing and implementing the More Beds, Better Care Act, 2022 (the “Act”, formerly Bill 7) that received Royal Assent on August 31, 2022. Effective September 21, 2022, the remaining provisions of the Act will come into force. In addition, changes to the [regulations](#) under the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 (O. Reg. 484/22) and the Public Hospitals Act (O. Reg. 485/22, O. Reg. 486/22) will come into effect.

OARC acknowledges that for many, including the residents we serve and strive to represent, this new legislation is received with mixed feelings and varying levels of understanding.

We appreciate the underlying premise and direction of this initiative in that the hospital is not the correct place for people who no longer require the intensity of hospitalization care. An LTC home can be a more appropriate care environment for many patients as it provides a home-like environment where residents benefit from social activities like dining, recreation, and physical activity. Hospitals are not designed to meet an Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patient's restorative, supportive or rehabilitative needs. We acknowledge government's direction in seeing LTC homes as one of the many solutions to address the current hospital and healthcare crisis.

OARC is committed to reflecting the resident voice and will continue to prioritize the wellbeing of current and future residents, ensuring that people living in LTC homes are supported in living their best life possible. We look forward to continued consultations with government and having the resident voice incorporated into decisions that affect them. We welcome any and all opportunities to build relationships and to further amplify resident lived experience with a goal of stabilizing LTC.

We are pleased to be hosting representatives from the Ministry of Long-Term care on our virtual platform next week for an opportunity to learn more about what residents might expect to see in their homes in addition to hearing other important updates.

Resource links for your interest:

- Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-plan-to-stay-open-en-2022-08-18.pdf>
- Joint Ministry of Health and Ministry of Long-Term Care Deputy Minister – Ontario Health Memo <https://ltchomes.net/LTCHPORTAL/Content/Snippets/09.14-EN-Joint-MLTC-MOH-DM-OH-Memo-Bill-7-2022.09.14-FINAL.pdf>

- Admissions for ALC Patients: Field Guidance Document for Placement Coordinators <https://ltchomes.net/LTCHPORTAL/Content/Snippets/09.14-EN-LTCH-Admissions-for-ALC-Patients-Field-Guidance-for-Placement-Co-ordinators-2022.09.14.pdf>
- Summary of Regulations <https://ltchomes.net/LTCHPORTAL/Content/Snippets/09.14-EN-Appendix-Summary-of-ALC-Reg-Amendments-2022.09.14.pdf>

Fall Planning and Vaccine Preparedness

Earlier this month, Health Canada approved the [Moderna/Spikevax COVID-19 bivalent](#) vaccine which offers more targeted protection against the Omicron variants. The term [bivalent](#) simply means that the vaccine targets two coronavirus strains. The province has been working with public health units and sector partners to direct supplies, ensuring that LTC homes are prioritized to receive the booster, along with other high-risk settings and populations.

What does this mean for residents?

Booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been recommended by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, based on the science that indicates that vaccine protection decreases over time. Team members in your homes have likely already started to have conversations with you about the availability of the new vaccine booster. As part of these conversations, your [consent](#) must be obtained.

What about my annual flu shot?

According to Ministry communications, it is anticipated that the influenza vaccine will also be available in the coming weeks and distributed to LTC homes the week of September 26th, 2022.

Can I get both vaccines at once?

Influenza vaccines may be given at the same time, or at any time before or after COVID-19 vaccine.

How can I access more information about this?

For residents and Residents' Councils seeking more information about vaccines, including anticipated availability and administration at your home, OARC recommends inviting a representative from your Nursing Department/Infection Control team to your next Council meeting for an update. As residents, you are the experts about the type of information you or fellow residents might want in order to make an informed decision.

Additional resource:

- [COVID-19 Guidance Document for LTC Homes](#)

LTC Accommodation Rate Increases

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the annual LTC home resident co-payment rate increase was deferred to October 1, 2022. Consistent with prior years, an inflationary increase of 2.5% will be applied to the co-payment for basic and preferred accommodation rates in LTC homes.

As part of your home's responsibility to inform residents (and anyone who supports you to manage your finances) of any anticipated changes in services or associated fees, the change in your Accommodation rates would have been communicated earlier this month to allow for a full 30 days written notice.

If you would like to learn more about your Accommodation Rates, process and eligibility for Rate Reductions, Resident Trust Accounts etc., this might be a great opportunity for your Residents' Council to get to know the Office/Finance Manager at your home and/or to explore the possibility of hosting an information session for residents.

Additional resource:

- [Bulletin to Residents of LTC Homes: Important News Regarding LTC Home Accommodation Charges](#)

Residents' Council Week -Free Live Concert

As Residents' Council Week draws to a close, we invite you to join us for a free virtual concert on **Friday, September 16th from 2pm-3pm** featuring musical guest Deidrey Francois. [Register here](#) to take part live or keep an eye out for the recording of this lively event!

We look forward to sharing some Residents' Council Week highlights in our monthly newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this week special.

Sincerely,
Your OARC team