

Ministry of Long-Term Care

Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Policy

6th Floor, 400 University Avenue
Toronto ON M5G 1S5
Tel.: (416) 629-3599

Ministère des Soins de longue durée

Sous-ministre adjointe
Division de la politique de soins de longue durée

400, avenue Universitaire, 6e étage
Toronto ON M5G 1S5
Téléphone: (416) 629-3599

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May 7, 2020

Dear Long-Term Care Home Licensees:

Re: Additional COVID Prevention and Containment Funding

This letter is further to the recent letter from the Honourable Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care, informing you that the Ministry of Long-Term Care (“the Ministry”) will be providing additional one-time emergency funding to the long-term care home (LTC) sector of up to \$88,340,000 to support the efforts in preventing and containing the spread of COVID-19.

The initial disbursement of up to \$34,838,200 for May 2020 will be flowed to homes as outlined below. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to the representatives from AdvantAge Ontario and the Ontario Long-Term Care Association for their input in informing the allocation process.

- Every LTC home will receive a base allocation of \$12,000 and \$200 per bed to support the necessary incremental expenditures of long-term care homes to prevent and contain COVID-19.
- Small and medium homes with B, C and/or D beds will receive additional funding of \$15,000 (for small homes – with 96 beds or fewer) or \$10,000 (for medium homes – with between 97 and 160 beds, inclusive) per home respectively. This is intended to provide further support to homes that are facing greater prevention and containment challenges due to the older physical structure and living spaces within the homes.
- Homes with COVID-19 infection are expected to incur more costs as more efforts are needed for further prevention and containment, and in recognition of this, these homes will receive an additional allocation of \$10,000 per home and \$200 per bed. This adjustment applies to all homes with infections reported or resolved as of April 30th, 2020. Homes with infection after this date will be addressed in the next tranche of funding. The additional per bed allocation applies to all beds in operation.

Please review the Appendix: Additional Emergency COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding Summary to identify the estimated allocation for your home.

This funding will be provided to eligible licensees that are party to a Letter of Agreement for Ministry Direct Funding to Long-Term Care Homes (Direct Funding Agreement, or DFA) with the Ministry. This letter sets out the applicable Ministry policy with respect to this transfer payment funding program for the purposes of Schedule A of the DFA.

Eligible expenses may include operating expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19, such as increased extraordinary costs associated with:

- Providing immediate 24/7 health screening to ensure staff and visitors are not ill when entering the building, and to screen residents on an ongoing basis to provide early containment of any new infections.
- Prevention and containment activities, through hiring new staff to carry-out the added workload for essential services and/or replacing workers who are sick or in isolation.
- Staffing recruitment and retention strategies (e.g. over-time pay, additional costs of converting part-time staff to full-time, costs of back-filling staff on sick leave).
- Cleaning, equipment, and operating supplies beyond typical levels.
- Implementing infection control measures based on clinical evidence, advice by a physician or other regulated health practitioners with expertise in infection control.
- Supporting virtual care and services for residents and staff.
- Providing hotel or other accommodation to some staff to assist them in reducing travel or exposure to families.
- Any other incremental expenditures required for the rapid response to prevent and contain COVID-19 in a long-term care home.

This additional funding is intended to financially support the necessary incremental expenditures and provide flexibility to prevent and contain COVID-19 and **is not limited to specific expenditure categories.**

We recognize that actual expenditures will vary across homes depending on a variety of local circumstances and the nature of the spread of the virus. This funding will be reconciled through a separate line in Section I Part A of the LTCH Annual Report at the end of the applicable year, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this letter and the LTCH Annual Report Technical Instructions and Guidelines. We will also consult with your representatives and provide further directions on any in-year reporting that may be required to support the allocation process to ensure that funding is provided in accordance with need and other accountability requirements.

The disbursement of the remaining investment will be communicated at a later date upon further consultations with the associations. At this time, we anticipate a further instalment will be processed for June 2020.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the ministry by e-mail at LTC.Info@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication, particularly during this unprecedented time as we work together to implement enhanced measures to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care homes.

Sincerely,



Janet Hope
Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Policy Division
Ministry of Long-Term Care

Enclosure

c:

Mr. Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care

Mr. Peter Kaftarian, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services

Mr. Brian Pollard, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Operations Division

Mr. Jim Yuill, Director, Corporate Services

Mr. Michael Robertson, Director, Public Inquiries Branch, Long-Term Care Policy Division

Mr. William Hatanaka, Board Chair, Ontario Health

Ms. Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long-Term Care Home Association

Ms. Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario