

Ministry of Long-Term Care

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Ministère des Soins de longue durée

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DATE: December 08, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Home Licensees
Long-Term Care Home Administrators
Long-Term Care Home Directors of Nursing and Personal Care

FROM: Brad Robinson
Acting Director, Long-Term Care Inspections Branch

RE: New Inspector Testing Protocol

A new testing protocol for Long-Term Care Home Inspectors is being implemented in order to align with the recent Minister's Directive— **COVID-19: Long-term care home surveillance testing and access to homes**. The protocol is effective December 9th, 2020 with an implementation allowance to December 16th, 2020.

This testing protocol requires long-term care home inspectors to confirm that they have received a negative COVID-19 test result prior to entering homes and to verbally attest to not subsequently having tested positive. The frequency with which inspectors are required to be tested varies depending on the status of the home they are inspecting—the requirements are similar to those outlined in the Minister's Directive:

- If an inspector is entering a long-term care home in public health unit regions in **green-prevent** or **yellow-protect** levels, they shall be tested every two weeks,
- If an inspector is entering a long-term care home in public health unit regions in **orange-restrict**, **red-control** or **grey-lockdown** levels, they shall be tested every week.

Inspectors will keep an official record of all (negative or positive) COVID-19 test results and will verbally attest to a negative COVID-19 test upon entering a home.

You can learn more about the colour-code levels assigned to each public health unit region by reviewing the [COVID-19 response framework: keeping Ontario safe and open](#).

Further details about the Minister's Directive referenced above can be found on LTCHomes.net. A post made on November 22, 2020 contains:

- [A link to the Minister's Directive](#),
- [A memo from the Deputy Minister](#),
- [The COVID-19 Visiting Policy](#)
- [FAQs Staff Student and Volunteer Testing](#)
- [FAQs COVID-19 Visiting Policy](#)

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Original signed by

Brad Robinson

c: Advantage Ontario
Ontario Long-Term Care Association