

Supporting NPs in LTC through COVID-19

Meeting #1- March 30, 2020

Agenda Items	Discussion Points
Clarity from public health re: testing for COVID-19 in LTC homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous lack of clarity in testing for COVID-19 in LTC homes (various policies from local public health units) • Clarification from Doris: new directive makes LTC homes priority for testing. • Testing must be conducted for COVID-19 on every symptomatic resident and staff in the long-term care home, including residents who are linked to a COVID-19 outbreak, and including recently deceased residents who were part of the outbreak but who were not previously tested. • Public Health units must accept swabs from LTC homes. If you experience difficulty with this, contact Doris: dgrinspun@rnao.ca • Kaitlin advised to use regular viral swabs for influenza season. Public Health will automatically run the swab in their unit (use your LTC # and the swabs you send will take priority for testing).
Goals of Care and End of Life Care Preparedness for LTC homes in the context of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doris urges NPs to initiate goals of care discussions with all residents and families now • Michael Garron Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=i16ZDM3ZnZA&feature=emb_logo • Kaitlin advised some LTC facilities are drafting letters to families re: the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak. Kaitlin, please share letter templates with Kyle: kdieleman@rnao.ca • Obi advised their LTC home has created a designated [locked] isolation wing in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, as well as a protocol to call families and explain benefits/risks of ventilators, etc. Obi, please share the protocol if you are able to: kdieleman@rnao.ca • Currently there is no directive for reporting deaths that are potentially COVID-19 related but not laboratory confirmed. Wendy, please share the coroner's protocol you have access to: kdieleman@rnao.ca
PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All health care providers are to wear a mask at all times given the increased rate of community transmission (in hospitals and LTC homes alike). Goal= 2 masks, per health care provider, per day. • Kaitlin advised LTC homes are now required on a daily basis to report their PPE supply and expectations (for need) to the ministry. • If you are having difficulty securing sufficient PPE and your regional contact person is slow to respond, connect with Doris dgrinspun@rnao.ca and pgbatten@rnao.ca; Doris will escalate your concerns to the ministry.
Respiratory Outbreak Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doris advised to cohort patients with COVID-19 into separate wings/ rooms of LTC homes • Isolate and swab any patients with respiratory symptoms +/- fever. Joanne advised this is when her LTC home will initiate goals of care discussions with residents and families.
Self-isolation Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy @ Kaitlin's LTC: require droplet/contact precautions and isolation for all residents entering the LTC home from an outside location (i.e. new admission, re-admission following hospitalization, etc.) for a period of 14 days.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RNAO staff are developing a protocol for self-isolation- stay tuned for more regarding this. • Suggestion from Beverly to utilize palliative care or separate rooms as isolation rooms/ rooms to cohort patients with respiratory symptoms.
Staffing Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff demanding time off during COVID-19 is not unacceptable unless there is a valid medical reason such as a compromised immune system or underlying medical condition (for which they require a note from their primary care provider). • Consider referring staff experiencing stress to this link for free mental health services for Ontario COVID-19 health care providers: https://covid19therapists.com/ • Via Nurse houses a list of available RNs, NPs and nursing students (for PSW roles) that are ready to be deployed. Do not wait until your LTC home is short-staffed to begin recruiting extra help; use the following link to access nursing support now: https://myrnao.ca/ltc-home-psw-initiative?city= • Additional staff can be used to assist with fall prevention, wound care, medications, etc. • Suggestion from Shannon regarding staff shortages: clustering care; reducing medication passes from TID to BID whenever possible (i.e. with metformin, for example); removing meds such as vitamin D and changing Tylenol orders to PRN.
Additional resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OLTCC and Advantage Ontario are disseminating daily updates re: COVID and LTC for members https://www.advantageontario.ca/ https://www.oltcc.ca/
Future Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-weekly, every Monday and Thursday • 5:30 pm- 6:30 pm • Next meeting: Thursday, April 2 @ 5:30 pm <i>*Please send us your questions in advance</i>