

Supporting NPs in LTC through COVID-19

Meeting #2- April 2, 2020

Agenda Items	Discussion Points
Investigating COVID as a Cause of Death + NPs certifying death in LTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doris stated work with government is being done to ensure NPs are able to certify death <i>in all circumstances</i>. More direction is coming soon. • All recently deceased residents are to be tested for COVID-19.
PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RNAO's position is that all staff in LTC homes should have access to at least one surgical mask per shift. Volunteers into the home should also be wearing masks while visiting. • Question re: CPAP and use of N95 mask → Ashley please send your question to Doris dgrinspun@rnao.ca and Kyle kdieleman@rnao.ca • Nora- experiencing issues with access and rules around PPE. Please connect with Doris via dgrinspun@rnao.ca to share your concern. • Please do not use or promote the use of cloth masks for health care professionals. There is no evidence to support their utility.
Testing + COVID-19 Outbreaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outbreaks in LTC homes are growing exponentially. A major contributor to this is that not every staff is receiving one mask per shift. Masks prevent community transmission. • If there is one resident positive with COVID-19 in an LTC home, all other staff and residents need to be tested including recently deceased residents (these swabs will be prioritized as per recent directive).
Staffing Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; please build surge capacity now by emailing hmccconnell@RNAO.ca or dlau@RNAO.ca
RNAO Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IABPG team has worked tirelessly to create resources to support staff and the community during COVID-19. These include: isolation protocols, mental health support for staff, patients and families, and issues and strategies for safe care. These resources and tools are under review and will be available shortly.
Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have set up a Facebook Group to provide a forum for people to share stories and get support from others experiencing a similar situation. The group will be moderated by RNAO's LTC Best Practices Program team - a group of registered nurses who work across the province to support the uptake of evidence-based practices in LTC homes. They will gather any questions you may have, answer those they can, and identify what resources can support you and others during these uncertain times. We invite you to join the Connecting Families Group. Please note they will not be able to provide clinical advice, or specific information about your family and friends. How to Join the RNAO LTC Support: Connecting Families Facebook Group: Visit: https://www.facebook.com/groups/RNAOLTCSupportGroup

Future Meetings

- Semi-weekly, every Monday and Thursday
 - 5:30 pm- 6:30 pm
 - Next meeting: Monday, April 6 @ 5:30 pm
- *Please send us your questions in advance to kdieleman@rناو.ca*