

Supporting NPs in LTC through COVID-19

Meeting #4- April 9, 2020

Agenda Items	Discussion Points
PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RNAO is examining issues that involve PPE on a daily basis. • All staff and visitors in long-term care and retirement homes should be adhering to <i>universal masking</i> (wearing a mask at all times to prevent COVID transmission). If your facility is short on PPE, please let your regional PPE coordinators know: https://myrnao.ca/sites/default/files/attached_files/PPE%20Leads%20-%20April%205%2C%202020.pdf • If you continue to experience issues, please let Doris know: dgrinspun@rnao.ca. • RNAO is advocating for the following: 1) universal masking (as mentioned above- anyone that enters the facility including RNs, NPs, PSWs, volunteers, etc. needs to be wearing a mask); and 2) mass testing to catch up with the rest of the provinces in Ontario. Currently Ontario is processing ~3,000 swabs per day. • Continue to use the protocols for N95 masks- i.e. during Aerosolizing Generating Procedures (trach care, when caring for patients on ventilators, etc. as per IPAC updated recommendations).
Testing + COVID-19 Outbreaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question re: testing new admissions to LTC. Should all new residents be screened with a swab upon admission? Doris: this is currently not a standardized practice. RNAO will investigate further. • All new admissions to LTC should be isolated for 14 days. • RNAO's position for cohorting residents is that any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID need to be isolated and whenever possible, cohorted in separate rooms or wings/hallways. • If your facility is short on testing supplies, please reach out to let us know.
Staffing Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion from Wendy to decrease med passes to 2x shift (for all residents able to safely tolerate this change) as it will help to lessen the workload, especially when short-staffed. • ViaNurse through RNAO continues to be available. It 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 and dlau@RNAO.ca • RNAO is continuing to match nurses with organizations in need. • Over 7,000 RNs, 900 RNs with experience in critical care, and 250 NPs are ready to be deployed and can be accessed within hours of contacting RNAO. See website link here: https://rnao.ca/news/information-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19#VIANurse
RNAO Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palliative and End of Life Care Protocol is live, and available on RNAO's website here: https://myrnao.ca/sites/default/files/attached_files/Planning-for-Palliative-Care-During-the-COVID-19%20Pandemic-April%209%2C%202020.pdf • Mental Health/Wellbeing resources are live, and available on RNAO's website here: https://myrnao.ca/sites/default/files/attached_files/MH%20and%20Well%20bei

	<p>ng%20Psychosocial%20supports%20during%20Covid%2019%20-%20April%209.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection Prevention Protocol is live, and available on RNAO’s website here: https://myrnao.ca/sites/default/files/attached_files/Considerations%20for%20Isolating%20Residents%20of%20LTC%20_Covid%2019%20%28FINAL%29%20April%201%2C%202020.pdf • RNAO is working with Advantage Ontario and the Ontario Association of Residents Council to provide support, answer questions, and collaborate on strategies for virtual visits, etc. • RNAO is hosting webinars titled “Legal issues in nursing practice related to COVID-19 (LAP webcast).” The first will take place on April 7, 2020 from 5:30-7:30pm. The next will be held on Thursday April 9, 2020 from 8:30-10:30pm. Repeated sessions will be offered in the coming weeks. Please register in advance. • RNAO will look into developing a guideline re: RN, NP, RPN and PSW responsibility during COVID. I.e. when and how should PSWs escalate care concerns to RNs and/or NPs.
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 <i>ViaFamily-Connecting Families</i> Facebook Group. Please note the best practice program team will not be able to provide clinical advice, or specific information about your family and friends. To join visit: https://www.facebook.com/groups/RNAOLTCsupportGroup • A second Facebook group for health care providers has been created and will also be going live shortly.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: Should NPs be doing annual physicals when physicians are out of the home? Doris: If you do not have a COVID outbreak currently, use this time to prepare for one; physicals are important but not first priority right now. The emergency order allows for annual physicals to be on hold. • Question: Can NPs go virtually to one home and in person to another home? Doris: Will put it in her daily update today or tomorrow. It’s a very important question.
Future Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-weekly, every Monday and Thursday • 5:30 pm- 6:30 pm • Next meeting: Monday, April 13 @ 5:30 pm <i>*Please send us your questions in advance to kdieleman@rnao.ca or via the website question boxes.</i>