



Hamilton

Healthy & Safe Communities Department - Public Health Services
Epidemiology, Wellness & Communicable Disease Control Division
110 King Street West, 2nd Floor, Hamilton, ON, L8P 4S6
Phone: 905-546-2063 Fax: 905-546-4078

November 12, 2020

To: LTC Facility Senior Administrators, Medical Directors and Directors of Care

On October 16, 2020, Hamilton Public Health Services communicated with long-term care facilities and retirement homes recommending that long-term care facilities restrict short-term absences and essential/family visitors due to increasing concerns that these activities could result in COVID-19 transmission to these facilities.

In the intervening weeks we have seen marked increases in outbreaks in long-term care facilities and other congregate settings, often with high attack rates among both residents and staff and resultant hospitalizations and deaths.

As a consequence of these worrisome developments, Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health of Hamilton Public Health Services, is issuing a **direction that all short-term resident absences, aside from those for essential medical reasons, and all visitors, except for one essential visitor to be designated by the resident/family, are to cease immediately.**

If a resident request a short-term absence for compassionate reasons, the resident must be placed in isolation under full droplet/contact precautions for 14 days upon their return. Short-term absence of a resident from a facility under COVID-19 outbreak designation is prohibited.

For any questions or concerns related to this letter, please call the COVID-19 hotline at 905-974-9848 option 4.

Sincerely,

Michelle Baur

City of Hamilton Public Health Services
110 King Street West, 2nd Floor, Hamilton, ON L8P 4S6
Fax: 905-546-4078
www.hamilton.ca