

FACT SHEET

COVID-19 Preparedness in Long Term Care Homes

March 9, 2020

Emerging information on COVID-19 suggests elderly individuals and those with underlying health conditions are at increased risk of severe outcomes. LTCHs should be implementing prevention and early detection measures so that outbreak control measures can be implemented promptly. LTCHs should follow the guidance for [respiratory outbreak](#) and [COVID-19](#) prevention from the Ministry of Health. This includes prevention activities such as:

- Posting signage and advising visitors who have traveled to affected areas or been exposed to a case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days to postpone their visit
- Posting signage and advising all visitors who are ill to postpone their visit
- Ensuring availability and accessibility of hand hygiene throughout the facility
- Keeping staff and residents informed on COVID-19
- Reminding staff to be [monitoring themselves for illness](#) and to stay at home when they are sick
- Developing policies for managing staff who may have been exposed to a case of COVID-19
- Assessing incoming residents for respiratory symptoms and potential exposures to COVID-19
- Monitoring residents for new respiratory symptoms or fever
- Quickly identifying and isolating any resident with acute respiratory illness or fever
- Ensuring signage is clear and that personal protective equipment (gowns, gloves, masks and eye protection) for health care workers are available and accessible for care of patients with acute respiratory illness
- Helping visitors with personal protective equipment if visiting residents under precautions
- Reporting any suspected COVID-19 illness in residents or staff to your local public health unit

More information on COVID-19 can be found at:

- [Ministry of Health - Coronavirus](#)
- [Public Health Ontario - Coronavirus](#)