

COVID-19 INFORMATION UPDATE



September 21, 2020

To: Operators & Managers of Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities
From: Dr. Sue Pollock, Medical Health Officer
Courtney Zimmerman, Corporate Director Environmental Public Health

Re: Class Exemptions to the COVID-19 Single Site Order & Infection Control Expectations

As we transition into the fall season, the risk of COVID-19 may increase. We are taking this opportunity to remind you of the classes of occupations that are exempted from the Single Site Order and the infection control requirements for these individuals when they are working in your facility.

biomedical engineers	nurse practitioners	psychometric technicians
certified foot care nurses	occupational therapists	recreation therapists
critical delivery persons	paramedics	red seal chefs and cooks
critical facility managers/leaders	pharmacists	regular and biochemical waste removal people
dental hygienists	pharmacy technicians	rehabilitation attendants
dentists	physicians	resident physicians
dieticians	physiotherapists	respiratory therapists
inter-facility transport staff	plant operators and trades people	social workers
medical laboratory assistants	podiatrists	speech language pathologists
medical laboratory technologists	psychiatrists	wound care nurses
music therapists	psychologists	

All service providers and other individuals that enter your site need to follow best practices with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hand hygiene and social distancing while in your Care Facility. Please review the [Infection Prevention and Control Requirements for COVID-19 in Long Term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living](#) (June 30, 2020) and ensure that you are aware of the most up-to-date requirements.

In addition to the standard requirements, the following are conditions required for all exempted individuals:

- The Care Facility will ensure that the exempted individuals/employees follow all required infection control precautions, including donning of PPE.
- The Care Facility will provide education and training on infection control processes and applicable policies and procedures to the exempted individuals/employees, and will assess the exempted individuals/employees comprehension and implementation of infection control measures, PPE use and all facility policies.
- The Care Facility will monitor the adherence with the infection control measures and all expectations as set out in policy.

The best practices and conditions for exempted individuals are designed to protect the vulnerable persons in care at your facility, and we encourage you to remain vigilant as we go into the fall season. If you have questions regarding exemptions, please email singlesitefeedback@interiorhealth.ca; or if you have questions regarding other operational issues, please contact your Licensing Officer at licensingdirect@interiorhealth.ca.