

Wednesday April 1, 2020

COVID-19 REPORT

The Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario has issued new directives to all long-term care and retirement homes in Ontario for the management of outbreaks are stricter and will lead to the recognition of outbreaks sooner. Previously three case defined an outbreak. A single case is now considered an outbreak.

Dr. Merrilee Fullerton is the Minister of Long Term Care, a new post created last summer. In a radio interview yesterday, she reported there were 23 homes in outbreak. Progressive steps by the government to mitigate outbreaks are active screening, visitor restrictions, two emergency orders from a couple of days ago, and tighter protocols in the event of an outbreak.

Minister Fullerton expressed "deepest condolences" to all the staff, residents and families affected by the outbreak at Pinecrest. COVID-19 is "a beast we collectively need to wrestle to the ground. It is going to take our collective might." Minister Fullerton states that our resident deserve respect and dignity, and staff needs support. She recognizes the changing nature of long term care the "high level of complexity".

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-tuesday-edition-1.5516171/ontario-doing-everything-possible-to-help-care-homes-combat-covid-19-says-minister-1.5515020>

COVID-19 and certification of death COVID-19 should appear on the Certificate of Death if it is the cause, or the assumed cause, of death. COVID-19 is the official terminology of WHO. Other terms, like coronavirus, should not be used. If COVID-19 is believed to have caused, or contributed to, death it should appear in Part 1 of the Medical Certificate of Death. Mortality from COVID-19 is increased with chronic conditions such as coronary artery disease, COPD, asthma, diabetes and compromised immunity. These should be listed in Part 2 of the Medical Certificate of Death. A guide for completing death certificates is attached. OLTCC is in conversation with Dr. Dirk Huyer, Chief Coroner of Ontario. The Office of the Chief Coroner will provide a more streamlined means to report deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 SURVEY

The COVID19 pandemic is a significant public health emergency that impacts all sectors of healthcare. The negative health outcomes for the COVID19 infection are most prevalent in the elderly. World Health Organization data would indicate a global case fatality rate of approximately 8% and 15% for those aged 70-79, and >80 years respectively. This is in contrast to a global case fatality rate of 3-4%. In Ontario, there has been significant communication between public health officials with primary care leaders to ensure the readiness of family physicians in managing COVID19 in their community.

<https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus#what-do-we-know-about-the-risk-of-dying-from-covid-19>

As a provider in long term care, you are invited to complete a survey developed by Drs. Henry Siu and Lorand Kristof. The purpose of this study is to assess the perception of LTC clinicians about their LTC home's awareness and readiness in responding to COVID19. This survey is anonymous, unpaid, and should take you 10 minutes to complete. By following the link below to completing and submitting your responses, you will have indicated your implied consent to participate in this study. Please only complete the survey once.

You do not need to complete the survey or answer any questions that you do not want to answer or that make you feel uncomfortable. The answers you do provide may help to improve the way the LTC sector is engaged in future public health emergencies. You may stop the survey at any time before submitting your answers by closing the Internet browser, and none of your responses will be saved. All responses gathered will be kept secure on a password-protected computer in a secure location. The data for this research will be kept indefinitely.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Dr. Henry Siu (Co-Principal investigator) at siuh3@mcmaster.ca

Dr. Lorand Kristof (Co-Principal investigator) at lorandkristof@yahoo.com

Please take the survey:

<https://surveys.mcmaster.ca/limesurvey/index.php/168726?lang=en>