

COVID-19 REPORT

Ministry of Health and LTC	Outbreaks	Ont cases	Deaths	LTC deaths	% LTC deaths
July 13	27	36,090	2,723	1,836	67.4%
July 20	16	37,942	2,753	1,841	66.8%

The OLTCC Board of Directors met this morning and urge caution as our homes open for safe family visits. It is important that clinicians attend to the medical requirements of their residents while exercising use of PPE. Physicians and NPs should be an example for staff and others by getting regular COVID-19 tests.

OLTCC webinar: IN THE WAKE OF THE FIRST WAVE, Friday, July 24, 12:00 – 1:00.

With Dr. Allison McGeer, Infectious Disease Specialist at Mt Sinai hospital. Objectives are:

1. Review the experience of the first wave of COVID-19
2. Recommend preparations for further outbreaks in LTC
3. Present the role of chemo-prophylaxis and the COVID CONTROL trial

All clinicians and stakeholders are invited. Join the meeting at:

<https://zoom.us/j/95356260497?pwd=Y3MwRDdxhHV5T1ZRaHhrTnNiWS9rQT09>

Clinicians can access a fillable Medical Certificate of Death, Form 16, on-line, either through the Members Only section of the CPSO website or this link: [MCOD - Form 16](#)

There remains a requirement to print and sign this document. Clarification is required on the validity of an electronic signature.

Our representatives through the OMA are in discussion with government officials to expedite the ability of on-line completion. Nurses can pronounce death and there is no benefit for the physician to come to the home to complete a form. The attending MD or NP knows the decedent and trajectory of illness causing death. It respects cultural sensitivity by ensuring no delay to certain religious or culture rituals. During pandemic times, it lessens the movement of health care providers between health care settings. Over 260 clinicians signed the on-line petition circulated last week.



eConsult is a secure web-based tool that allows MDs or NPs access to specialist advice. It offers direct provider-to-specialist communication via the eConsult portal, similar to email communication. eConsultOntario.ca. Contact: eConsultCOE@toh.ca

ON MAKING LONG TERM CARE A HOME

As a **LTC clinician**, I worry about COVID-19 and containing this virus should it enter my facility.

As a **medical director**, I am responsible for mitigating the risks of COVID-19 with the risks of a prolonged isolation on residents' wellbeing. The OLTCC Medical Director course has provided me with the tools to do that!

As a **palliative care practitioner**, I know that health is very much founded on quality of life, and palliative care is founded on exactly that – quality of life. What society has yet to embrace is that LTC is not just a resident's home, it is often a resident's last home. Even with an average time from admission to death of under 2 years, CIHI sadly reported that only 1 in 20 LTC residents who died in 2015 received palliative care. The reasons cited were limited access to specialized care, difficulties assessing prognosis, communication barriers between providers and residents and their families, and not understanding that dementia leads to death.



I strongly advocate for a palliative approach in LTC. LTC must be resident centered and quality of life care based on individual resident's values and needs (physical, emotional, social, psychological, and spiritual), and where all physicians, staff and volunteers are comfortable with the philosophy of hospice palliative care because, intrinsic to a home are family, friends and human connections.

Based on the palliative care approach, I have developed a new Model of Care for LTC that will be submitted for publication but is being shared with Government officials and the media. I am also leading a group of Canadian LTC physicians who will be working on a National Framework for LTC.

Along with the OLTCC Board members, I advocate for the swiftest possible implementation of any measures that will make Long Term Care a place known for quality of life -- a home!

Dr. Legere is on the Board of Directors of OLTCC