

An Open Letter to the Minister of Long-Term Care:

Greater Transparency and Further Measures are Required to Save Lives in Long-Term Care

April 3, 2020

Honourable Merrilee Fullerton
Minister of Long-Term Care
400 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

Dear Minister Fullerton,

We are concerned about the lack of transparency and measures taken by the Ministry of Long-Term Care to curb the spread of COVID 19 in long-term care homes across Ontario.

As you know, residents in long-term care homes are exceptionally vulnerable at this time due to the COVID 19 pandemic; visitor restrictions and the loosening of staffing regulations at long-term care homes; and, simply as a result of their compromised physical and/or cognitive conditions.

On April 1, 2020, CBC News reported a total of 40 deaths in long-term care homes in Ontario linked to COVID 19. This number increased to 42 yesterday, with reports of two more resident deaths at Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon. There are 67 reported deaths in Ontario in total (as of April 2, 2020). This means that approximately **63% of the individuals who have died as a result of COVID 19 in Ontario are long-term care home residents.**

Now is a critical time for long-term care home residents, their families, staff, and all Ontarians. Transparency is needed now. Families and residents need to know the risks of remaining in long-term care and what measures are being taken to protect our vulnerable elderly.

We are calling upon the Ministry to provide daily updates on the spread of COVID 19 in long-term care homes. We are calling upon the Ministry to provide these updates online, and, in a format including details for each and every long-term care home in the province, with at minimum, a tabulation of the following:

1. All positive, pending and negative COVID 19 tests of all residents, staff and volunteers at each long-term care home in Ontario to date.
2. The percentage of staff and residents who have been screened for COVID 19 at each long-term care home.
3. The absenteeism rate of staff at each long-term care home for the previous calendar day.
4. Whether mandatory personal temperature checks have been instituted for all individuals entering and exiting each long-term care home.
5. Whether the home has a shortage of personal protective equipment.

We urge the Ministry to publish this information now. We cannot reasonably expect to curb the spread of COVID 19 in long-term care if we cannot identify the risks and the resources needed to save lives.

Sincerely,



Christine Morano
Co-Founder and Partner
Advocai LLP



John-Paul Zeni
Co-Founder and Partner
Advocai LLP