

September 29, 2020

AMO Policy Update – New Long-Term Care Funding, Measures, and Community Paramedicine to Address COVID-19

Today the government announced [new investments](#) of close to \$540 million for long-term care as part of the government's COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan. The funding is intended to help protect residents, caregivers, and staff in long-term care homes from future surges and waves of COVID-19. It will be spent on necessary renovations and measures to improve infection prevention and control, increasing personal protective equipment (PPE) stockpiles, and building a strong health care workforce.

These investments include a new investment of \$2.8 million to extend the High Wage Transition Fund to ensure that gaps in long-term care staffing can continue to be addressed during the pandemic. The government has also committed to work with municipal partners to use community paramedics to help people on the long-term care waitlist stay in their own homes longer. This is part of their work to look at innovative solutions to provide more care where and when people need it.

The full list of new provincial investments includes:

- \$405 million to help homes with operating pressures related to COVID-19
- \$61.4 million for minor capital repairs and renovations in homes to improve infection prevention and control
- \$40 million to support homes that have been impacted by the changes in occupancy numbers due to COVID-19
- \$30 million to allow long-term care homes to hire more infection prevention and control staffing, including \$20 million for additional personnel and \$10 million to fund training for new and existing staff
- \$2.8 million to extend the High Wage Transition Fund to ensure that gaps in long-term care staffing can continue to be addressed during the pandemic
- providing all long-term care homes with access to up to eight weeks of supply of PPE so they are prepared in case of outbreaks
- working with municipal partners to use community paramedics to help people on the long-term care waitlist stay in their own homes longer.

Finally, the government is also revising visitor policies to prevent the spread of infection in long-term care homes. Effective Monday, October 5, 2020, visitors to long-term care homes in these areas will be restricted to staff and essential visitors only, which includes essential caregivers.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.