

December 7, 2020

STATEMENT

Donna Duncan, CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA), released the following statement related to the Ontario Government's announcement of details on the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Ontario Long Term Care Association, representing 70% of the province's long-term care homes caring for 70,000 residents annually, is encouraged by today's announcement on Ontario's COVID-19 immunization program and is ready to facilitate the administration of this first, and future shipments of, lifesaving vaccines to those most impacted by the virus including residents, staff and essential visitors within long-term care homes. Prioritizing these vulnerable populations is recognition of the devastating toll of the virus on our seniors, who were most at risk to COVID-19 given their age and other health conditions, and the heroic work of our frontline staff and essential visitors.

Ontario's long-term care homes are engaged with the Ontario Government and the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force to facilitate the administration of the vaccine from the moment it is approved and delivered. Timely access will save lives, and will only be accomplished through strong partnership between governments, the entire health system, frontline workers and the public. The OLTCA continues to urge the public to follow public health protocols according to their region. A key factor of COVID-19 infecting a long-term care home is community spread, and while a vaccine is a much-needed and welcomed sign, it will take time to ensure everyone is protected so we must remain vigilant until we have won the battle against the pandemic. Our seniors are relying on us.

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