

Appendix 10 - Sample Transfer & Return Algorithm for Use During Outbreaks

Transfers and Returns between Long-Term Care Homes and Hospitals during Outbreaks

The return of residents to a long-term care home (LTCH) during outbreaks is generally restricted in an effort to protect susceptible individuals from being exposed to respiratory infections such as influenza, and gastrointestinal infections such as norovirus. Returns to LTCHs are not automatically prohibited. They must be considered carefully with respect to resident safety and quality of life, as well as system capacity.

The sample algorithm provided here is a compilation of work done in southwestern, southeastern, and central eastern Ontario involving all relevant partner organizations. The tool is an outline of the process and factors to consider when making decisions about returning residents to their long term care homes after a hospital stay. It outlines opportunities for dialogue among the system partners who are involved in the care of residents: long-term care homes, hospitals, public health units, physicians, and of course, the residents themselves.

The sample algorithm provided here, may be used or adapted by stakeholders across Ontario who may not have documented their processes and considerations for transfers and returns between LTCHs and hospitals during an outbreak. It is intended to promote dialogue of key considerations. Users of this sample may modify it as appropriate to reflect their local practices, and should do so in consultation with relevant partners.

For more information, LTCHs can follow up with their public health unit, or see Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes, Available at: <http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/guide.aspx>.

Image 1: Sample Transfer & Return Algorithm for use during Outbreaks

