**Notice to Long Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes Regarding Respiratory Outbreak Specimens**

As per Public Health Ontario, in order for outbreak specimens to be prioritized at the Public Health Laboratories:

* [Requisitions must be printed on green paper (if green paper is not available use a different colour paper. Do not use white paper for outbreak specimens; using white paper will delay timely identification and prioritization of specimens)](file:///W:\CDC%20(ID%20Share)\Website%20Updates\Sample%20-%20COVID-19%20Virus%20Test%20Requisition.pdf)
* Ensure proper information (including the outbreak number) is clearly included on each requisition
* [Include clear identification on the outside of the specimen (biohazard) bag. Preference is a bright green insert in the front pocket of the bag, or a bright green sticker on the front of the bag with the text “Outbreak Specimens: OB# XXXX-YYYY-#####” (see template attached to this notice).](file:///W:\CDC%20(ID%20Share)\Website%20Updates\Specimen%20Bag%20Label%20Template.pdf)

\*Note this information only applies to outbreak specimens that have an assigned outbreak number from the Public Health Unit. Please continue to follow your regular processes for specimen collection and labelling for all other COVID-19 or respiratory specimens.