

**Original Public Report**

**Report Issue Date** August 17, 2022  
**Inspection Number** 2022\_1628\_0001  
**Inspection Type**  
 Critical Incident System     Complaint     Follow-Up     Director Order Follow-up  
 Proactive Inspection     SAO Initiated     Post-occupancy  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Licensee**  
Corporation of the City of Guelph  
**Long-Term Care Home and City**  
The Elliott Long Term Care Residence, Guelph

**Lead Inspector**  
Jessica Bertrand (722374)

**Inspector Digital Signature**

**Additional Inspector(s)**  
Maria McGill, Inspection Manager, was present during the inspection.

**INSPECTION SUMMARY**

The inspection occurred on the following date(s): August 9, 10, 11, 15, 2022

The following intake was inspected:

- Log #016311-21 (CIS# M633-000008-21) related to medication management

The following **Inspection Protocols** were used during this inspection:

- Food, Nutrition and Hydration
- Medication Management
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)

**INSPECTION RESULTS**

**WRITTEN NOTIFICATION – DIRECTIVES BY MINISTER**

**NC#01 Written Notification pursuant to FLTCA, 2021, s. 154(1)1**

**Non-compliance with: FLTCA, 2021 s. 184(3)**

The Licensee has failed to ensure that the home carried out the policy directive for notifying the local public health unit of all confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 as soon as possible.

In accordance with the Minister's Directive: COVID-19 response measures for long-term care homes, effective April 27, 2022, the licensee was to ensure that the requirements for case and outbreak management as set out in the COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario, or as amended, were complied with.

The COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario, revised June 28, 2022, indicated COVID-19 is a designated disease of public health significance, and thus confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 are reportable to the local public health unit under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA). Homes must notify the public health unit of all confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 as soon as possible.

### **Rationale and Summary**

During a month in 2022, six staff members that included Personal Support Workers (PSWs) and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) tested positive for COVID-19, along with another staff member who had suspected COVID-19 with negative test results. Two staff members tested positive for COVID-19 on the same day they worked at the home, one staff member tested positive the day after they worked, one staff member tested positive two days after they worked, and two staff members tested positive after a longer period away from the home.

The home's Infection Control Lead indicated they did not notify the public health unit for any of the seven suspected or confirmed staff member cases of COVID-19 listed on the tracking document. The Infection Control Lead also indicated two residents were isolated in relation to one positive staff member. They said that the home's practice was not to call public health if a staff member tested positive unless there was a direct link to the home.

A Public Health Inspector from Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph region confirmed that the home was to report each staff case of COVID-19 to public health. They indicated that staff members who tested positive for COVID-19 within one to two days of working should have been reported as this would have been during the period of communicability, and it would have needed to be determined whether there were high risk contacts or not.

Failure to notify the public health unit of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 put residents, staff, and visitors at risk of appropriate measures being taken based on public health's risk assessment, including the direction and coordination of any outbreak response.

**Sources:** Staff COVID-19 tracking documentation, interview with the Infection Control Lead and Public Health Inspector, Infection Control Team, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit, Minister's Directive: COVID-19 response measures for long-term care homes, effective April 27, 2022, COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario, revised June 28, 2022.

[722374]