



ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

FOR THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020 – 9:00 AM

ORDER

- 1st Meeting Called to Order
- 2nd Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof
- 3rd Motion to Move Into “Committee Of The Whole Council”
- 4th Reports of Council, Outside Boards and Staff

Staff Report

Chief Administrative Officer – Long-Term Care Home Surveillance Testing: Overview and Draft Policy Review (Materials to be available on July 22 by 4:30 p.m.)

- 6th Closed Meeting Items
- 7th Recess
- 8th Motion to Rise and Report
- 9th Motion to Adopt Recommendations from the Committee Of The Whole
- 10th Consideration of By-law
- 11th ADJOURNMENT

Video Conference Meeting – IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION RESTRICTED

NOTE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Please click the link below to watch the Council Meeting:
<https://www.facebook.com/ElginCountyAdmin/>

Accessible formats available upon request.



Surveillance Testing of Long-Term Care Home Staff

Presentation to Elgin County Council

JULY 23, 2020



COVID-19

Surveillance Testing

BACKGROUND

The sooner we can identify COVID-19 cases in our Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH), the better positioned we are to contain the spread and save lives. Elgin County and the Province of Ontario are taking aggressive action to keep residents and staff in LTCHs safe.





Mandatory Testing

Testing is an occupational requirement to protect staff and residents from exposure to COVID-19 and all LTCH staff must be tested for COVID-19 **twice per month**, with tests conducted **two weeks apart**.

Testing will be required on an ongoing basis **until further notice**. This includes front-line workers, management, food-service workers and contracted service providers. All staff are required to comply with this directive to ensure the safety of staff and residents.



COVID-19 Test

The test (technically known as RT-PCR test) is invasive and can be uncomfortable for some. It involves a healthcare provider inserting a thin, plastic nasal swab three to four inches along the floor of the nose through the nostril.

For most, the test is momentarily uncomfortable and causes a short-term shock of unpleasantness. For some staff, this test may be more than an annoyance and staff have reportedly experienced headaches, nose bleeds and in some cases anxiety.

We have encouraged staff who are struggling with these symptoms to speak to their Manager and Family Physician. Homes Management is committed to addressing concerns on a case-by-case basis.



Types of Swabs Available

The nasopharyngeal (NP) swab is recommended as the best choice for COVID-19 testing and provides the most accurate results. Other options that may be less sensitive and slightly less invasive may be available through staff's family physician or alternate assessment centre locations.

At this time, the Assessment Centre located at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital is only conducting NP tests.



COVID-19 Test - First Round (June)

In June of 2020, there were a handful of staff who refused surveillance testing.

Through conversations with Public Health, it was recommended that these staff remain off work for 14-days after which time, pending passing COVID-19 screening, those staff could return to work.

COVID-19 Test - Second Round

Following the June round of testing, we are finding that some staff are using this time as unpaid vacation. This is understandably concerning for those staff who are getting tested and who are concerned that those who refuse testing are increasing the risk of COVID-19 within the Home.



Significant Challenges

Most staff are supporting this mandatory requirement and understand that this requirement is in place to protect themselves and the residents of our Homes.

We have serious concerns with the growing number of LTCH staff who are refusing testing. This requires Council's immediate attention as we have reached critical staffing levels and if additional staff refuse, we may need Ministry intervention to support safe resident care.

NEXT STEPS

- Review, consider amendments and approve policy
- We are exploring different solutions which might enable us to conduct on-site staff testing
- Virus testing techniques are constantly evolving as the drive for faster tests, using less complex technology builds. We will advocate for less invasive tests and provide staff feedback regarding the NP test to the Minister of Health.





Acknowledgement

While this mandatory screening has presented some challenges with respect to a small proportion of staff, our team at the LTCHs continues to be dedicated and committed to the care and safety of our 247-residents.



QUESTIONS?

CLOSED MEETING AGENDA

July 23, 2020

Staff Reports:

- 1) General Manager of Economic Development – *Municipal Act Section 239 (2) (i) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization* – Property Matters (Verbal)

- 2) Manager of Museum and Archives – *Municipal Act Section 239 (2) (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board* – Museum Bequest