



## COVID-19 Community Risk

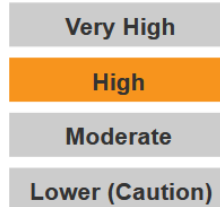
[Technical Notes](#)

For the date of:

22 October, 2022

[CLICK HERE](#)


### Overall Risk Level



### Trend


**Increasing**

### For the week ending October 22, 2022:

 The overall COVID-19 Risk Level is **High**

 Compared to the previous week COVID-19 activity is **increasing**.

## COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR LTCH, RH, AND OTHER CLS - UPDATED

 Ontario 

The Ministry of Health (MOH) released an updated COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes (LTCH), retirement homes (RH), and other congregate living settings (CLS) on October 06, 2022. Below is a summary of some of the key changes made:

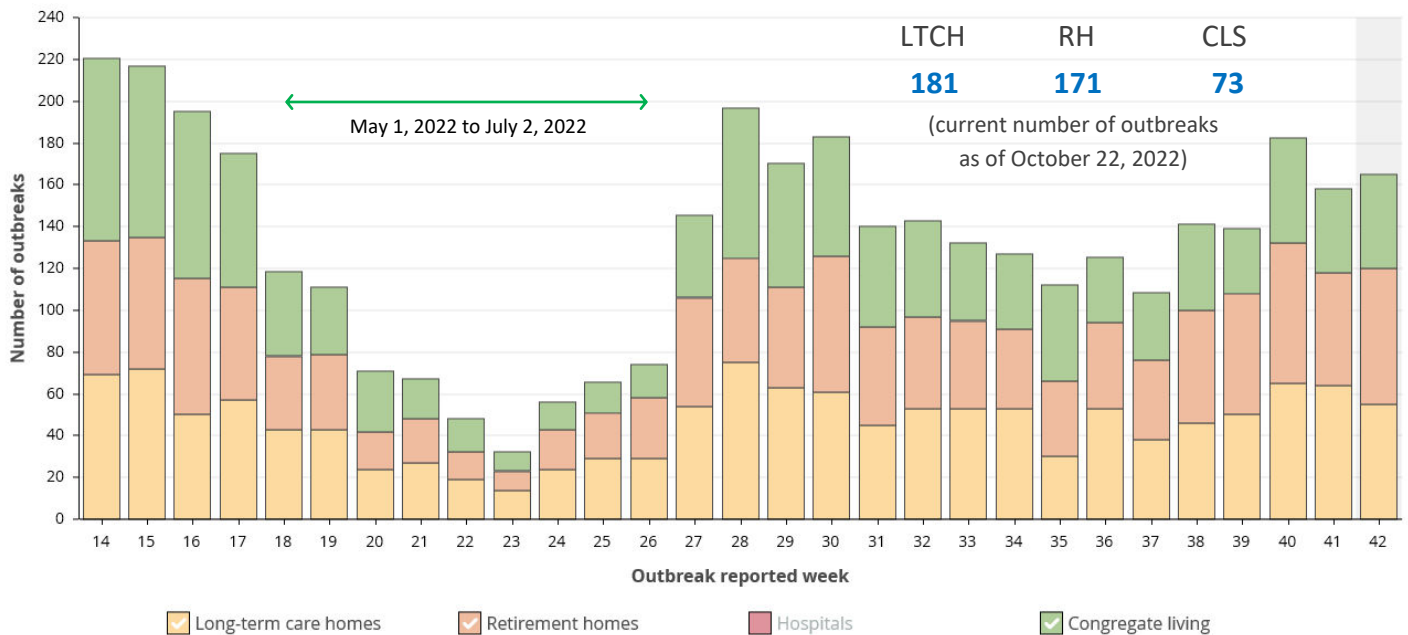
- Universal masking is still required indoors for all staff in LTCH, RH, and other CLS.
- Testing and isolation of asymptomatic clients/residents is no longer recommended upon admission from the community or a facility that is not in outbreak.
- In general, non-roommate, close contacts residents who remain asymptomatic do not need to be self-isolated/placed on Additional Precautions. Instead, these residents should be monitored twice daily for symptoms, encouraged to wear a mask if tolerated, and maintain physical distance outside of their room for 10 days following their last exposure.
- Molecular testing (PCR) is recommended for symptomatic individuals associated with a highest-risk setting over rapid antigen tests (RAT). RAT should not be used for residents and staff who are symptomatic without parallel molecular testing.
- All symptomatic residents with acute respiratory symptoms are now eligible for testing of other respiratory viruses using a multiplex respiratory virus PCR panel (MRVP) test for prospective surveillance. During an outbreak, up to four symptomatic residents will be accepted for concurrent MRVP testing.
- Asymptomatic residents do not need to be isolated when waiting for point-prevalence test results.
- For other **CLS**, client/resident cases should self-isolate for **at least 5 days** (10 days for LTCH and RH) after the onset of symptoms or date of specimen collection (whichever is applicable/earlier), and until the case has no fever and symptoms are improving for 24 hrs (48 hrs for GI symptoms). Resident cases should continue to wear a mask at least until day 10.

 Source: [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca)

## COVID-19 OUTBREAKS IN LTCH, RH, AND CLS IN ONTARIO

Source: [www.publichealthontario.ca](http://www.publichealthontario.ca)

Weekly confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario - April 03, 2022 to October 22, 2022



### SECTOR-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL COVID-19 GUIDANCE

The Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) and the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) released additional COVID-19 guidelines for long-term care and retirement homes respectively during the first two weeks of October 2022. Below is a summary of the key updates:

#### Guidance for Long-Term Care Homes

- As of October 14, 2022, attestation and active screening for COVID-19 is required only for visitors and essential caregivers, and not for staff, students, and volunteers (also applies to RH).
- Masks are no longer required to be worn when visitors or caretakers are alone with a resident in their room, although it remains recommended.
- LTCHs are no longer required to follow the provincial limit of four visitors (including caregivers) per resident at a time for indoor visits.
- Residents are no longer required to be tested for COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, daily screening of residents for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is still required.

#### Guidance for Retirement Homes

- While it is encouraged, visitors may remove mask when *alone* with a resident in their room.
- Outdoor masking is not required for staff, residents, or visitors but is still recommended.
- Active screening and attestation for staff is no more required upon entry but is recommended.
- Asymptomatic surveillance testing for staff, visitors, or contractors using a rapid antigen test (RAT) is not required but is still recommended.
- RHs are no longer required to keep attendance records for social gatherings, communal dining, and other recreational activities.

For the complete MSAA’s guidance document for RHs, click on the PDF icon.



Sources: [www.ontario.ca](http://www.ontario.ca) | [www.rhra.ca](http://www.rhra.ca)