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**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Some Regions Moving to New COVID-19 Levels, Phase 2 LTC Community Paramedicine Program

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November 27, 2020

## **AMO Policy Update – Some Regions Moving to New COVID-19 Levels and Phase 2 Long-Term Care Community Paramedicine Program**

### **New Regions Moving to More Restrictive COVID-19 Framework Levels**

In consultation with the CMOH and local MOHs, the Ontario government is moving [five public health regions](#) to new levels with stronger public health measures. The regional levels and specific public health measures are set out in the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#).

Based on the latest data, the following public health regions will move from their current levels in the framework to the following levels effective Monday, November 30, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.:

- Red - Control
  - Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
- Orange - Restrict
  - Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
- Yellow - Protect
  - Hastings Prince Edward Public Health
  - Lambton Public Health; and
  - Northwestern Health Unit.

All other public health regions will remain at their current levels. The [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) has the full list of public health region classifications. has the full list of public health region classifications.

For long-term care homes, [visitor restrictions](#) apply to those homes in the public health unit regions that are in the Orange - Restrict level or higher. In addition, long-term care homes must implement recently [enhanced testing requirements](#).

Trends in public health data will be reviewed weekly to determine if public health regions should stay where they are or be moved into a higher level. Public health regions will stay in their levels for a minimum of 28 days, or two COVID-19 incubation periods, at which time, the government will assess the impact of public health measures to determine if the public health unit should stay where it is or be moved to a different level. The Ministry of Health will continue to consult regularly with local medical officers of health on local context and conditions to help inform the classification of their public health unit region.

## **Phase 2 Long-Term Care Community Paramedicine Program Expansion**

The Ontario government is investing up to \$15 million to expand the [Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Program](#). This fully provincially funded initiative will help more seniors on long-term care waitlists stay safe at home.

To start, municipal paramedic services are invited to express their interest in expanding their existing provincially funded community paramedicine programs to include long-term care. Those that meet the eligibility requirements will be invited to submit an implementation plan and proposed budget, outlining how they will administer a larger Community Paramedicine program this fiscal year.

The Long-Term Care Community Paramedicine program uses the skills of community paramedics to help seniors stay at home safely by providing primary care while delaying their need for long-term care. The first phase of this program was [announced in October 2020](#), in partnership with five communities.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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