

Program/Service Information Report

Vaccine Administration in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes 2025-2026 Fall Vaccine Campaign

To: Board of Health

Meeting Date: April 1, 2026

Report No.: **BH.01.APR0126.C06**

Key Points

- The Fall Vaccine Campaign long-term care homes (LTCH) and retirement homes (RH) includes Influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines.
- WDG Public Health adopted a more individualized, one-to-one approach with each home, providing enhanced planning support, implementation guidance, and increased availability of Public Health staff throughout the campaign.
- COVID-19 vaccination rates among LTCH and RH residents increased by 2% this year.
- Influenza vaccination rates also increased by 2% this year in LTCH residents, however fell 3% in RH residents.
- Over 70% of LTCH and RH staff reported receiving their influenza vaccine.
- Public Health continues to play a key role in vaccine coordination, working closely with pharmacies, family doctors, and facility staff to streamline vaccine administration.

Program Requirements

Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators:

In compliance

Highlights

1. Influenza:

Influenza vaccine uptake among LTCH and RH residents remained strong, averaging 83% and 82% respectively. This is a 3% increase in LTCH residents from last year (see *Figure 1*). 70% of all LTCH and RH staff reported receiving an influenza vaccine this year, noting this is likely underreported. A breakdown of influenza vaccination rates by home is included in Appendix A.

2. COVID-19:

COVID-19 vaccination uptake among residents increased this year across both facility types, averaging 70% in LTCHs and 73% in RHs, up 3% and 2% respectively (see *Figure 1*). This was an additional 586 residents vaccinated this year compared to last in LTCHs and RHs. Staff COVID-19 vaccination was not tracked widely this year as homes rely on staff to self-report their COVID-19 immunizations. A breakdown of COVID-19 vaccination rates by home is included in Appendix B.

Figure 1: Percentage of Resident COVID-19 and Influenza vaccination in 2024-25 and 2025-26

Facility Type	AVG % Flu		AVG %COVID-19	
	2024 -2025	2025 -2026	2024 -2025	2025 -2026
Long-Term Care Home	80	83	67	70
Retirement Home	85	82	71	73

3. RSV:

The RSV vaccine provides long-term protection; therefore, many LTCH and RH residents did not require an RSV dose this year. Among eligible residents, uptake averaged 70% in LTCHs and 47% in RHs (see *Figure 2*). RSV campaign presents additional challenges, as unlike influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, pharmacists cannot administer RSV vaccines without a physician’s prescription and cannot bill for this activity. This means pharmacies are unable to provide the same on-site support as they can with influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. RSV rates in RH may be higher than shown in *Figure 2* (page 3) and Appendix C as many RH residents received their RSV vaccine through external providers.

Figure 2: Average % of Resident RSV Vaccination in LTCH and RHs in 2024-25 and 2025-26

Facility Type	2024-2025 (%)	2025-2026 (%)
Long-Term Care Home	44	70
Retirement Home	56	47

Takeaways for the 2025-2026 Campaign

WDG Public Health conducted an in-depth post-campaign evaluation through individual phone-based debriefs with participating homes. 21 of our 36 homes participated the debrief. While not all homes participated, consistent themes emerged across responses.

Educational Support & Resources

- The WDG-produced Vaccine Guide was widely used and considered clear and helpful for planning and staff education.
- Strong participation in the Medical Officer of Health virtual vaccine information session, with interest in continuing annually.
- Most homes used Public Health-provided materials and valued direct access to Public Health Nurses.
- Requests for earlier distribution of materials, expanded caregiver-focused resources, and additional myth-busting and staff education tools.

Vaccine Administration & Coordination

- Individualized outreach and one-to-one planning support were appreciated.
- Pharmacy and primary care partnerships supported influenza and COVID-19 delivery.
- Caregiver consent delays remained a challenge, particularly difficulty reaching substitute decision makers and slow return of mailed forms.
- Tracking and reporting externally administered vaccines, particularly RSV, created additional administrative burden.

Staff Engagement & Uptake

- Homes expressed appreciation for ongoing collaboration and Public Health accessibility.
- Staff vaccine hesitancy and misinformation continue to impact uptake.
- Some staff reported being under-informed or facing scheduling and access constraints.

Next Steps: Considerations for the 2026-2027 Campaign

WDG Public Health will:

- Advance campaign timelines, including earlier release of educational materials and scheduling of information sessions.
- Enhance caregiver- and staff-focused education resources.
- Explore opportunities to streamline consent process and reporting practices.
- Continue with the individualized engagement with homes on a one-to-one basis.

Related Reports

BH.01.DEC0325.R36 – [LTCH/RH 2025-26 Fall Vaccine Campaign Update Mid-Year Update](#)

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Appendices

Appendix A

2025-2026 Influenza Vaccination Rates by Home

Facility Name	# of residents	% of immunized residents	# of staff	% of immunized staff
Avalon Care Centre	103	89	158	65
Avalon Retirement Lodge	64	63	37	86
Bethsaida	19	68	9	89
Birmingham Retirement Community	59	76	40	58
Caessant Care Arthur (LTC)	63	89	88	95
Caessant Care Arthur (RH)	26	42	14	7
Caessant Care Fergus (LTC)	64	75	96	52
Caessant Care Fergus (RH)	28	75	11	73
Caessant Care Harriston (LTC)	70	76	141	54
Caessant Care Harriston (RH)	21	90	13	62
Chartwell Montgomery Village	128	90	68	59
Chartwell Royal on Gordon	Not Reported*			
Chartwell Wellington Park	101	96	50	70
Dufferin Oaks LTC	Not Reported*			
Eden House Care Facility (LTC)	58	83	122	61
Eden House Care Facility (RH)	19	95	8	63
The Elliot Community (LTC)	112	90	197	100
The Elliot Community (RH)	122	92	99	99
Fox Run RH	7	100	5	100
Hamilton's Hometown Retirement Living	14	93	2	100
Heritage House Retirement Living	75	72	12	100
Heritage River Retirement Residence	120	81	64	44
Highland Manor	Not Reported*			
Lord Dufferin Centre	60	65	38	Not Reported*
Morrison park nursing home	19	89	48	94
Royal Terrace (LTC)	67	85	115	88
Royal Terrace (RH)	43	88	Not Reported*	
Shelburne LTC	45	87	74	88
Shelburne Retirement	23	87	10	80
St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph, Ontario	236	69	798	7
Stone Lodge Retirement Home	75	84	47	49
Strathcona LTC	96	79	113	78
The Village of Arbour Trails	342	90	168	29
The Village of Riverside Glen (LTC)	192	83	257	82
The Village of Riverside Glen (RH)	192	86	221	71
Wellington Terrace LTCH	176	89	357	97

*The homes listed as *Not Reported* did not provide the identified data to WDG Public Health.

Appendix B

2025-2026 COVID-19 Resident Vaccination Rates by Home

Facility Name	# of residents	% of residents immunized
Avalon Care Centre	103	79
Avalon Retirement Lodge	64	33
Bethsaida	19	68
Birmingham Retirement Community	59	71
Caessant Care Arthur (LTC)	63	89
Caessant Care Arthur (RH)	26	50
Caessant Care Fergus (LTC)	64	55
Caessant Care Fergus (RH)	28	43
Caessant Care Harriston (LTC)	70	41
Caessant Care Harriston (RH)	21	76
Chartwell Montgomery Village	128	84
Chartwell Royal on Gordon	Not Reported*	
Chartwell Wellington Park	101	77
Dufferin Oaks LTC	Not Reported*	
Eden House Care Facility (LTC)	58	62
Eden House Care Facility (RH)	19	68
The Elliot Community (LTC)	112	82
The Elliot Community (RH)	122	89
Fox Run RH	7	100
Hamilton's Hometown Retirement Living	14	93
Heritage House Retirement Living	75	67
Heritage River Retirement Residence	120	73
Highland Manor	Not Reported*	
Lord Dufferin Centre	60	70
Morrison park nursing home	19	74
Royal Terrace (LTC)	67	60
Royal Terrace (RH)	43	77
Shelburne LTC	45	80
Shelburne Retirement	23	87
St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph, Ontario	236	69
Stone Lodge Retirement Home	75	73
Strathcona LTC	96	69
The Village of Arbour Trails	342	83
The Village of Riverside Glen (LTC)	192	81
The Village of Riverside Glen (RH)	192	78
Wellington Terrace LTCH	176	24

*The homes listed as *Not Reported* did not provide the identified data to WDG Public Health.

Appendix C

2025-2026 RSV Resident Vaccination Rates by Home

Facility Name	# of residents	% of residents immunized
Avalon Care Centre	23	48
Avalon Retirement Lodge	48	31
Bethsaida	5	40
Birmingham Retirement Community	29	31
Caessant Care Arthur (LTC)	6	100
Caessant Care Arthur (RH)	21	0
Caessant Care Fergus (LTC)	37	3
Caessant Care Fergus (RH)	25	60
Caessant Care Harriston (LTC)	19	68
Caessant Care Harriston (RH)	7	71
Chartwell Montgomery Village	28	71
Chartwell Royal on Gordon	Not Reported*	
Chartwell Wellington Park	96	5
Dufferin Oaks LTC	Not Reported*	
Eden House Care Facility (LTC)	25	72
Eden House Care Facility (RH)	11	27
The Elliot Community (LTC)	26	77
The Elliot Community (RH)	40	0
Fox Run RH	0	N/A
Hamilton's Hometown Retirement Living	14	7
Heritage House Retirement Living	12	0
Heritage River Retirement Residence	35	77
Highland Manor	Not Reported*	
Lord Dufferin Centre	37	22
Morrison park nursing home	6	100
Royal Terrace (LTC)	4	100
Royal Terrace (RH)	21	86
Shelburne LTC	15	47
Shelburne Retirement	4	100
St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph, Ontario	Not Reported*	Incalculable
Stone Lodge Retirement Home	5	0
Strathcona LTC	42	69
The Village of Arbour Trails	213	6
The Village of Riverside Glen (LTC)	73	89
The Village of Riverside Glen (RH)	92	60
Wellington Terrace LTCH	3	100

*The homes listed as *Not Reported* did not provide the identified data to WDG Public Health.