

## Program/Service Information Report

# Vaccine Administration in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes

January-December 2024

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**To:** Board of Health

**Meeting Date:** April 2, 2025

**Report No.:** BH.01.APR0225.C06

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## Key Points

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- The 2024 Fall Vaccine Campaign successfully provided **Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV** vaccines to Long-Term Care Homes (LTCHs) and Retirement Homes (RHs).
- Influenza vaccination rates remain high, protecting our residents during this Influenza season.
- Compared to 2023, the COVID-19 vaccine uptake saw slight improvement in some homes but remains lower overall compared to Influenza vaccination rates.
- RSV vaccination had a variable uptake, with leading homes reaching over 90% coverage while others remain lower. Many LTCH residents did not require an RSV vaccine this year as they received one in the 2023 campaign.
- Public Health continues to play a key role in vaccine coordination, working closely with pharmacies, family doctors, and facility staff to streamline vaccine administration.
- A comprehensive debriefing process with each home will be conducted to assess successes and opportunities for improvement, focusing on facilities with lower vaccination rates.

## Program Requirements

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### Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators:

☒ In compliance

☐ Not in compliance. If not in compliance, provide additional information about the variance and how it will be addressed.

## Highlights

### 1. Influenza:

Influenza vaccine uptake remained strong in 2024, averaging **80% in LTCHs** and **85% in RHs**, relatively consistent with the previous year (See Figure 1). Most homes maintained or improved coverage, ensuring high protection before peak respiratory season (see Appendix A).

### 2. COVID-19:

COVID-19 vaccination uptake in 2024 averaged **71% in RHs** and **67% in LTCHs**, slightly down from 74% and 75% in 2023, remaining below the 90% goal (see Appendix B). Vaccine fatigue seemed to contribute to the decline in uptake; however, targeted engagement helped stabilize numbers, underscoring the need for continued public health interventions to promote vaccination. Vaccine fatigue, though targeted engagement helped stabilize numbers highlighting the importance of continued public health interventions to promote vaccination. The Preliminary provincial averages for this season's COVID-19 vaccine rates are **54.5% in LTCH** and **50.5% in RHs** showcasing WDGPH is well above the provincial average.

**Figure 1: Percentage of Resident COVID-19 and Influenza vaccination in 2023 and 2024**

Facility Type	AVG % Flu		AVG % COVID-19	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
Long-Term Care Home	87	80	74	67
Retirement Home	90	85	75	71

### 3. RSV:

The RSV vaccine is expected to provide longer protection so does not require an annual vaccine. Many LTCH residents did not require a RSV dose this year due to a successful 2023 campaign run in the LTCHs. The first launch of RSV vaccine in the RHs had a varied uptake (see Figure 2 and Appendix C). Overall, the first-year rollout in the RHs was successful, with optimism for higher uptake in the future.

**Figure 2: Resident RSV Vaccination in 2024 in RH**

Facility Type	Lowest RSV%	Mean RSV%	Highest RSV%
Retirement Home	13	68	100

## Key Factors Contributing to Success

- Early access to vaccines ensured clinics were completed ahead of peak respiratory illness season, providing better protection for residents. The majority of homes launched their campaigns before October 2, 2024.
- Enhanced support and education through targeted outreach, education sessions, and one-on-one planning support improved vaccine coordination and uptake.
- Local pharmacies and family doctors collaborated with Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) and Retirement Homes (RH) to streamline the vaccine administration process, with encouragement and support from WDG Public Health as needed. These strong community partnerships helped alleviate the burden on LTCH and RH staff.

## Takeaways for the 2025 Campaign

WDG Public Health conducted an in-depth evaluation of the 2024 vaccination campaign taking an evidence-based approach to guide and enhance effectiveness of future outreach initiatives.

## Educational Support & Resources

- Increased interest in physical educational handouts and fact sheets highlights the need to focus on more accessible vaccine information for both residents and staff.
- In-service training sessions from the Infection Control team, and Medical Officer of Health information briefings received strong praise, with recommendations to expand outreach efforts to maximize impact.

## Vaccine Administration & Coordination

- While some homes reported smooth and efficient vaccine rollouts, others emphasized the need for more in-person vaccine promotion, particularly in retirement home settings.
- Many facilities cited collaborations with pharmacies as a key factor in streamlining vaccine administration and improving accessibility given their limited resources.

## Staff Engagement & Uptake

- Difficulty in monitoring staff vaccination rates remains a concern, as some employees opt not to disclose their status, complicating reporting efforts. Homes are requested to track HCW vaccination and report the data to the Ministry of Health however, not all staff report their Influenza vaccine to their home leading to under reporting. Rates may be higher than shown in Appendix D. (Appendix A)

The 2024 campaign was widely regarded as well-executed, with overwhelming appreciation for the support provided by WDG Public Health. Minor recommendations for enhancing communication and optimizing resource distribution will be incorporated into planning for the 2025 campaign, ensuring even greater efficiency and engagement.

## Next Steps

- **Post-Campaign Debriefs:** Conduct structured sessions with each home to assess successes, challenges, and areas for improvement in 2025.
- **Targeted Engagement for Lower-Uptake Homes:** Provide tailored education, in-person outreach, and clearer communication on RSV and COVID-19 vaccine benefits.
- **Enhancing Communication on Booster Timing:** Clarify messaging to address vaccine fatigue, improve scheduling, and align boosters with prior vaccinations.
- **Expanding Educational Resources:** Increase availability of fact sheets, handouts, and digital materials to enhance vaccine literacy.
- **Strengthening Pharmacy Partnerships:** Continue leveraging pharmacies for efficient vaccine administration and explore expanding partnerships.

## Related Reports

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**BH.01.DEC0424.R35** - December 2024 Mid-Year Vaccine Campaign Update

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<b>Prepared By:</b>	Shelby Leenders, Manager, Infection Control
<b>Approved By:</b>	Phil Wong, MBA, GDM, CPHI(C) Acting Vice President, Health Protection and Emergency Preparedness
<b>Submitted By:</b>	Dr. Nicola J. Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health & CEO

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## Appendix

### Appendix A\*

#### 2024 Influenza vaccination data

Facility Name	# of residents	% of immunized residents	# of staff	% of immunized staff
Avalon Care Centre	101	91	162	72
Avalon Retirement Lodge	65	80	33	85
Bethsaida	24	92	11	82
Birmingham Retirement Community	58	81	38	45
Caessant Care Arthur LTC	64	84	89	81
Caessant Care Arthur RH	27	70	8	36
Caessant Care Fergus LTC	64	77	83	24
Caessant Care Harriston LTC	76	72	118	49
Caessant Care Harriston RH	22	77	14	43
Chartwell Montgomery Village	250	70	86	36
Chartwell Royal on Gordon	90	84	63	60
Chartwell Wellington Park	102	98	60	50
Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care	160	79	239	79
Eden House Care Facility	56	86	130	77
Eden House Care Facility	20	80	10	80
Fox Run Retirement Home	10	100	5	100
Guelph Heritage House LTC Inc	80	68	33	21
Hamilton's Hometown Retirement Living	11	82	2	100
Heritage River Retirement Residence	119	82	67	52
Lord Dufferin Centre	53	92	45	31
Morrison park nursing home	20	90	36	100
Royal on Gordon	84	88	66	58
Royal Terrace LTC	67	75	110	31
Royal Terrace RH	46	100	110	31
Shelburne LTC	45	84	99	54
Shelburne retirement	23	87	10	80
St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph, Ontario	240	77	784	21
Stone Lodge Retirement Home	76	89	54	26
Strathcona LTC	96	65	109	70
The Elliot Community RH	118	93	100	95
The Elliot Community LTC	114	89	200	95
The Village of Riverside Glen RH	191	87	250	44
The Village of Riverside Glen-LTC	192	60	292	53
Wellington Terrace	176	92	348	97

\*3 homes did not complete survey prior to the report, their data will be collected but not included above.

## Appendix B\*\*

### 2024 resident COVID-19 vaccination data

Facility Name	# of residents	% of residents immunized
Avalon Care Centre	101	84
Avalon Retirement Lodge	65	55
Bethsaida	24	83
Birmingham Retirement Community	58	69
Caessant Care Arthur LTC	64	62
Caessant Care Arthur RH	27	70
Caessant Care Fergus LTC	64	66
Caessant Care Fergus RH	Not Reported	
Caessant Care Harriston LTC	76	68
Caessant Care Harriston RH	22	Not tracked
Chartwell Montgomery Village	250	66
Chartwell Royal on Gordon	90	69
Chartwell Wellington Park	102	55
Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care	160	38
Eden House Care Facility	56	54
Eden House Care Facility	20	75
Fox Run Retirement Home	10	100
Guelph Heritage House LTC Inc	80	68
Hamilton's Hometown Retirement Living	11	55
Heritage River Retirement Residence	119	77
Highland Manor Retirement Lodge	Not Reported	
Lord Dufferin Centre	53	91
Morrison park nursing home	20	85
Royal on Gordon	84	81
ROYAL TERRACE	67	93
Royal Terrace	46	57
Shelburne LTC	45	82
Shelburne retirement	23	87
St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph, Ontario	240	66
Stone Lodge Retirement Home	76	64
Strathcona LTC	96	90
The Elliot Community	118	57
The Elliot Community	114	67
The Village of Arbour Trails	Not Reported	
The Village of Riverside Glen RH	191	54
The Village of Riverside Glen-LTC	192	47
Wellington Terrace	176	66

\*\*3 homes did not complete survey prior to the report, their data will be collected but not included above.

## Appendix C\*\*\*

### 2024 resident RSV vaccination data

Retirement Home	# of residents	% of residents immunized
Avalon Care Centre	101	91
Avalon Retirement Lodge	65	43
Bethsaida	24	88
Birmingham Retirement Community	58	71
Caressant Care Arthur LTC	64	20
Caressant Care Arthur RH	27	63
Caressant Care Fergus LTC	64	27
Caressant Care Fergus RH	Not Reported	
Caressant Care Harriston LTC	76	30
Caressant Care Harriston RH	22	68
Chartwell Montgomery Village	250	70
Chartwell Royal on Gordon	90	59
Chartwell Wellington Park	102	10
Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care	160	22
Eden House Care Facility	56	18
Eden House Care Facility	20	40
Fox Run Retirement Home	10	100
Guelph Heritage House LTC Inc	80	68
Hamilton's Hometown Retirement Living	11	45
Heritage River Retirement Residence	119	70
Highland Manor Retirement Lodge	Not Reported	
Lord Dufferin Centre	53	66
Morrison park nursing home	20	25
Royal on Gordon	84	67
ROYAL TERRACE	67	89
Royal Terrace	46	24
Shelburne LTC	45	87
Shelburne retirement	23	78
St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph, Ontario	240	27
Stone Lodge Retirement Home	76	89
Strathcona LTC	96	21
The Elliot Community	118	86
The Elliot Community	114	23
The Village of Arbour Trails	Not Reported	
The Village of Riverside Glen RH	191	13
The Village of Riverside Glen-LTC	192	16
Wellington Terrace	176	36

\*\*\*Note LTCHs will show lower rates of RSV vaccination, that is because the 2023 RSV vaccine campaign only included LTCH. IF residents received a vaccine in 2023, they did not need one in 2024.