



How Think Research Can Contribute to Your Long-Term Care Response to COVID-19

Key Highlights

- COVID-19 is present in Canada with over 100 confirmed cases.¹ Canada's long-term care population is at particular risk for COVID-19 and the sector has a key role in helping prevent outbreaks of the disease and limiting transmission.
- Think Research specializes in implementing up-to-date, evidence-based best practices via standardized clinical tools. We are adding to our existing Clinical Support Tools Program for the Long-Term Care sector to include COVID-19 content.
- Our new COVID-19 clinical content supports consistent early case identification and will be updated as new information emerges on a 72-hour cycle (and sooner if urgent).
- Our content library includes screening and assessment tools, care protocols and orders, and is accompanied by training resources.
- Our team is available to support you through the implementation process as required.

Problem: Ensuring a Standardized, Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19

With the WHO's formal declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic, we have entered a very challenging time for you, your staff, residents and their families. The number of confirmed global COVID-19 cases has topped 100,000.² Globally, healthcare systems and local infection control and disease management are working hard to protect our most vulnerable people.

The elderly and people with underlying health concerns — such as diabetes, heart disease, or lung disease — are likely at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.³

Given these developments, it is increasingly likely that COVID-19 will affect residents across Ontario's long-term care homes. Long-term care homes are particularly at risk of outbreaks because of the intimate, close-knit nature of their living environment. COVID-19 transmission is a significant concern for residents who live communally because of their proximity to each other, high incidence of physical contact, and the infection's ability to spread through person-to-person contact.⁴

A systemic, coordinated, evidence-based approach to careful screening, with both active and passive screening and prompt infection control, will help to protect staff, residents and their families.

¹[Public Health Agency of Canada](#), March 11, 2020.

²[World Health Organization](#), March 11, 2020.

³[World Health Organization](#), March 11, 2020.

⁴[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#), March 11, 2020.

⁵[Toronto Star](#), March 11, 2020.

Leveraging Think Research's existing clinical knowledge infrastructure

The Clinical Support Tools (CST) Program offers evidence-based clinical screening tools to support you in consistently identifying early COVID-19 cases. We can help you to implement policy and procedure development recommendations, allowing you to focus on delivering quality care to your residents and protecting their staff.

The CST Program has empowered more than 440 long-term care homes with digital clinical decision support tools. These tools guide clinicians through a series of evidence-based questions and clinical pathways to develop an informed, person-centred plan of care. New tools being added to the library, in both digital and paper formats, will also support you to quickly identify residents at risk for infection or with concerning symptoms.

These tools will help you:

- Minimize the introduction of respiratory illnesses into homes.
- Offer consistent screening and early identification of suspected COVID-19 infections.
- Provide checklists to consolidate key isolation information and manage care for residents with febrile respiratory illness.

We understand the importance of having robust training and education services and tools in place to support uptake of these new tools. We are committed to releasing new COVID-19 content on a 72-hour cycle as updates become available, and even sooner for more urgent updates.

COVID-19 Content	Tool Description	Target Staff
Screening Tool for Residents	Series of best practice questions screening for any new COVID-19 symptoms	Nurses
Screening Tool for Visitors and Volunteers	Series of best practise questions to screen for COVID-19 symptoms, travel or ill contacts	Nurses, Personal Support Workers, Family Members
Readiness Checklist for Long-Term Care Homes	Checklist to support readiness to effectively manage activities related to COVID-19	leadership in Long-Term Care Homes (e.g., Director of Care)
Isolation Checklist	Checklist of isolation precautions required, recommended personal protectiveequipment use.	Nurses, Personal Support Workers
Febrile Respiratory Illness Care Protocol	Evidence-based information on diagnostic testing, supportive care, resident education.	Nurses, Personal Support Workers
Febrile Respiratory Illness Physician Orders	Evidence-based orders and guidance for diagnostic, supportive care and interventions.	Physicians

Timelines for COVID-19 CST Library Content

Think Research will provide our new clinical knowledge tools as follows:

- **Paper-based:** We are currently reviewing paper-based versions of the tools listed in the table with leading infectious disease experts. We expect their general availability by 9 am on Thursday, March 19, 2020.
- **Fillable PDFs:** Digital versions of the tools listed above will be available by 9 am on Thursday, March 26, 2020.
- **EHR Integrations:** We are targeting the week of April 1 for release. We will update you on publication specifics as more information becomes available.

If our tools, content, or support can assist your work with COVID-19 in any way, please contact us at 1-877-302-1861 ext. 315 or email lrc@thinkresearch.com.