



Cathy Hecimovich, Chief Executive Officer  
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November 19, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
110 Wellesley Street West, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to keeping Ontarians safe in the fight against COVID-19.

The health, safety, and protection of the more than 60,000 seniors living in retirement homes and 26,000 frontline staff providing care and services is our number one priority.

Our residents, staff and families are encouraged by the news of a potential effective vaccine being deployed in the coming months. We know that a vaccine will be a fundamental tool in keeping seniors safe and COVID-19 out of retirement homes.

On November 3, 2020, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization released recommendations to prioritize seniors and healthcare workers, personal care workers and caregivers providing care in congregate care facilities for seniors for a COVID-19 vaccine.

ORCA strongly recommends that the provincial government follows these recommendations and prioritizes retirement home residents and staff members to receive a COVID-19 vaccine first. Further, we recommend that where possible this vaccine be provided on-site to all residents and staff.

A COVID-19 vaccine will protect seniors. It will keep COVID-19 out of retirement homes and give our frontline staff a chance to do what they do best – care for seniors safely in a home they love and have chosen. Prioritized access to a COVID-19 vaccine is pivotal in this fight.

Premier, on behalf of our seniors, staff, and families, we look forward to continuing our work on these imperative protections with you. Together, we can ensure that the iron ring around our seniors stays strong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Hecimovich", written in a cursive style.

Cathy Hecimovich  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier & Minister of Health  
Hon. Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility