



Cathy Hecimovich, Chief Executive Officer  
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October 26, 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.

As you know, the retirement community sector takes caring for our seniors, their families, and our staff very seriously – it is our most important job.

And as an integral partner in a senior's health care continuum - we have stood firmly with you throughout this crisis – adapting quickly to ensure the safety and protection of our communities.

It is with that in mind that we stand firmly with you now on the urgent need for the deployment of rapid COVID-19 testing to high-priority settings in Ontario, including retirement communities.

We know that rapid testing saves lives. It protects seniors. It supports our staff to do their work with confidence – at a time, that their skills are desperately needed. It keeps COVID-19 out of our residences and gives a community a chance to do what they do best – care for seniors safely in a home they love and have chosen.

Our support of your commitment to a rapid testing strategy in congregate care settings cannot be understated - and the importance of retirement community inclusion in that strategy as a vulnerable population in a health care setting - underscored. Access to rapid testing is pivotal in the fight against COVID-19.

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 the iron ring around our seniors stays strong.

Thank you,

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  
Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care