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Assistant Deputy Minister's Office

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Ontario

January 15, 2025

MEMO TO: Retirement Home Operators and Licensees
FROM: Michèle Sanborn, Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy, Programs and Strategic Partnerships Division
Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

SUBJECT: *Candida Auris* a Reportable Disease of Public Health Significance as of January 1, 2025

I am writing to inform you that, starting January 1, 2025, Candida auris (*C. auris*) is designated as a disease of public health significance and communicable disease in Ontario under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990 (*HPPA). This means that retirement home licensees are required to report confirmed cases of *C. auris* to their local medical officer of health.

C. auris is a fungal infection that is often resistant to treatment. It spreads easily via direct and indirect contact, especially in healthcare settings among those with severe underlying medical conditions requiring complex care. *C. auris* can cause severe infections in the blood, wounds, or other parts of the body. Outbreaks have been reported in Canada and other countries including the United States. Between 2012 to 2022, Canada recorded 43 cases, with nearly half identified in the last three years. Due to its rapid spread and difficulty in treatment, *C. auris* is seen as a growing global concern.

This new designation will help improve tracking and allow us to better prevent and respond to cases or outbreaks.

For additional information, including how to report cases for the purposes of subsection 27(2) of the HPPA, please reference the Appendix 1: Case Definitions and Disease-Specific Information. If you have any questions, please direct them to your local public health unit or contact our team at RHinquiries@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,
Original signed by

Michèle Sanborn
c: Melissa Thomson, Deputy Minister, MSAA and MLTC

Marsha Pinto, Director, Retirement Homes Branch, MSAA
Dr. Michele Murti, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, OCMOH
Jay O'Neill, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority
Cathy Hecimovich, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Retirement Communities Association
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario