

Algoma COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Plan

for Older Adults and their Caregivers

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an immense impact on the health system and on adults 65+. Older adults have experienced^{1,2}:



As our health system recovers from COVID-19, our goal is to both restore and improve care for older adults. Our recommendations fall into four key categories:

Reversing Functional Decline

Improving space, programming, and tools to support frailty identification.

- Strengthen Algoma Geriatric Clinic resources
- Develop a Geriatric Day Hospital
- Launch Post-Falls Pathway Pilot
- Work with primary care to identify frailty early
- Expand community-based falls prevention programs

Improving Mental Health & Wellbeing

Equipping primary care, patients, and communities with resources to improve mental health

- Work with clinicians to identify mood disorders early
- Provide resources and education on mental wellness strategies to older adults
- Support programs to decrease loneliness and social isolation

Supporting Primary Care

Building foundational knowledge and processes to facilitate early identification of frailty and smooth transitions to care

- Launch universal frailty screening and education
- Coordinate access for Geriatric Services

Supporting Caregivers

Recognizing caregivers as essential partners in care and improving transitions between services

- Scale Caregiver ID program across Algoma
- Develop a Patient Navigation Program

Read the full report at www.algomaohht.ca/resources.

¹ Provincial Geriatrics Leadership Office (PGLO) & Rehab Care Alliance (RCA). (2021). Pandemic Recovery Planning: Enhancing Care for Older Adults in Ontario.

² van Ineveld, C. H. M., Huang, S. C., Vashney, N. K., & French Merkle, V. (2020). The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic Restrictions on Geriatric Day Hospitals and Geriatric Ambulatory Care in Canada: Adapting for Future Waves and Beyond. *CGS Journal of CME*, 10(1). <https://canadiangeriatrics.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Geriatric-Day-Hospital-Ambulatory-Care-in-Canada-FORMATTED-final.pdf>