



CONTROL OF COVID-19 OUTBREAKS
IN LONG TERM CARE

CONTROL of COVID-19 Outbreaks in LTCHs – OLTCC newsletter

Chemoprophylaxis has been a cornerstone in the management of LTCH outbreaks of influenza. While definitive therapies do not yet exist for COVID-19 (the infection caused by SARS-COV-2), there are a number of molecules with activity against SARS-CoV-2 *in vitro* that might be effective *in vivo* against this virus. These drugs are all more likely to work for prophylaxis (where initial viral load is low) than for treatment.

We propose to test available medications with activity against SARS-COV-2 in cluster-randomized placebo-controlled clinical trials to ask whether chemoprophylaxis can be used to control COVID-19 outbreaks in LTCHs. LTCH units with an outbreak of COVID-19 and evidence of on-going transmission (defined as at least 2 residents of one unit with COVID-19 with onset within 7 days of each other) will be eligible for enrollment.

In the first of these trials, consenting residents and staff will be randomized to receive favipiravir or placebo in a 1:1 ratio. Residents and staff will receive the study drug simultaneously and will continue chemoprophylaxis for 25 days. This design mimics the current approach to outbreaks of influenza, which has proven efficacy for outbreak control.

We hope that the existence of this trial, and potential subsequent trials of other drugs, will result in us identifying best management of COVID-19 outbreaks as quickly as possible, and improving outcomes for LTCH residents and staff.

We look forward to your collaboration. Please call or email us at any time (Chris Kandel at 416-879-6535; Christopher.Kandel@one-mail.on.ca or Allison McGeer at 416-586-3123; Allison.mcgeer@sinaihealth.ca with questions or comments. Written materials are available for all stakeholders and can be accessed at www.tibdn.ca/control-covid.

Thank you for your consideration.