

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}:



Reduced access to programs & services



More time spent alone



Less time moving around & going places



Higher rates of anxiety



Relying more on caregivers



Delays in accessing preventative care

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.algomaoh.ca/feedback.