

April 27, 2020

**MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers**

**SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions**

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The Command Table focused on actions to support government's recovery plan, [A Framework for Reopening our Province](#) that was announced on April 27<sup>th</sup>. This framework outlines the criteria Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts will use to advise the government on the loosening of emergency measures, as well as guiding principles for the safe, gradual reopening of businesses, services and public spaces.

As we work toward recovery, we will rely on public health data, defined criteria and consistent measures to guide our next steps. The Command Table is actively tracking progress on several key indicators to inform the easing of public health measures, including:

- **Reducing the spread of the virus:** Ontario had an effective rate of reproduction of 1.1 for the period of April 5<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup>. Through public health measures already implemented, we are targeting a reproduction number of less than 1.0, which would signal that the epidemic is coming under control.
- **Timely Contact Tracing:** We continue to work with our partners in public health to track and monitor progress towards a target of approximately 90% of new COVID-19 contacts reached by local public health officials within one day, with guidance and direction provided to contain community spread.

The government's recovery framework includes continued protections for vulnerable populations, including the actions identified in the [COVID-19 Action Plan for Vulnerable People](#) announced on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Command Table reviewed actions focused on **prevention, enhanced screening and infection control** to ensure that outbreaks of COVID-19 in high risk settings are identified early, addressed effectively, and prevented wherever possible. These settings include homes serving those with developmental disabilities, shelters for survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking, children's residential settings and Indigenous residential settings on and off reserve.

We will continue to engage in activities to immediately respond to outbreaks in our system and actively monitor progress towards key targets across a number of domains to ensure that the stage-by-stage approach to reopening the economy is done at the right time, putting the safety of Ontarians first and preventing risk of secondary outbreaks.

We thank you for your continued work to support the implementation of our provincial efforts to respond to the pandemic and plan for a phased recovery.

Sincerely,

*(original signed by)*

Helen Angus  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Health

Dr. David Williams  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson  
President and CEO  
Ontario Health