

October 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions

In follow-up to our last communication, we are pleased to share additional updates from the provincial Health Command Table on key actions that are being taken to ensure that Ontario's health care system is prepared for the Fall influenza season and effectively responding to COVID-19, including:

- **Actively monitoring implementation of the Universal Influenza Immunization Program plan to ensure broad community distribution and access to the flu vaccine.**
 - Flu vaccines are being distributed to priority settings with high-risk populations such as hospitals and long-term care homes.
 - The ministry is working with public health units, Ontario Health and primary care providers to implement innovative models of delivery (e.g., mobile flu clinics, alternative settings) in response to the anticipated increase in demand for the flu vaccine in the broader community. These partnerships for vaccine delivery will augment the options for access available beyond primary care providers, public health clinics, pharmacies and other health care agencies.
 - The ministry continues to procure additional doses of vaccine, including high-dose vaccines recommended for seniors.
- **Continuing to expedite implementation of health human resources (HHR) strategies to address urgent needs for additional capacity.**
 - The Ministry of Health is working with Ontario Health to establish mobile emergency response teams that can be deployed to long-term care homes in significant crisis with large HHR gaps.
 - The Ministry of Health is also leveraging the Ontario Matching Portal to identify volunteers from non-health sectors who can be trained to provide support such as resident aid, or PSW aid to priority settings, including long-term care homes and retirement homes in greatest need.
- **Reviewing new modelling data and analyses from the Science Advisory Table on the course of wave two of COVID-19 and the key role of public health measures in limiting the spread.**

- The new modelling data highlight the need to maintain a focus on addressing cases in hotspots and other public health regions with increasing trends in case growth.
- The Science Advisory Table provided jurisdictional information on the impact of targeted, early public health measures on the rate of case growth and subsequent reopening.

We thank you for your continued work to respond to the pandemic and implement a phased recovery.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

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Deputy Minister
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