

Office of the Deputy Minister

Bureau du sous-ministre

777 Bay Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

777, rue Bay, 5e étage

Toronto ON M7A 1N3

Toronto ON M7A 1N3

Tel.: 416 327-4300

Tél. : 416 327-4300

Fax: 416 326-1570

Télééc. : 416 326-1570

August 11, 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 address COVID-19 and to ensure that Ontario's health care system is prepared for the Fall influenza season and potential future waves of COVID-19, including:

- **Continuing to monitor public health and health system metrics to support the province's continued reopening.**
  - Command Table notes that Ontario reported 33 new cases, a continuation of the downward trend in case counts over the past week.
  - The government announced that Windsor-Essex will be joining the rest of the province in stage 3 of reopening as of Aug. 12th.
  - Command Table focused on recovery metrics to understand how the health system's ability to resume regular activity, such as elective surgeries and procedures, can be accelerated in a period of relative stability in the pandemic's trajectory.
- **Supporting local health system leaders to prepare for current and potential outbreak issues through knowledge translation and collective problem solving.**
  - Rapid Response Table released its first weekly outbreak prevention bulletin to communicate information on how to socialize safely and share lessons learned from the Windsor-Essex farm outbreaks.
- **Continuing to work with the Ministry of Education to support the safe return to schools in September.**
  - Command Table reviewed the protection and outbreak management strategies in the Ministry of Education's plans for reopening schools, including the role of local Public Health Units and the Ministry of Health in supporting a rapid response structure to respond to cases of COVID-19 in students, staff and parents. This structure will build on lessons learned from the implementation of an Incident Management System (IMS) structure for long-term care homes.

We thank you for your continued work to respond to the pandemic and implement 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