

August 4, 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 potential future waves of COVID-19, including:

- **Review of a surveillance strategy to monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 in Ontarians, target prevention efforts and support rapid health system response.**
 - Command Table reviewed recent evidence related to serology testing as a potential tool for planning, prioritization and evaluation of the pandemic response.
- **Continued health system planning to support preparedness for the Fall influenza season and potential future waves of COVID-19.**
 - Command Table reviewed the ministry's comprehensive preparedness plan for Fall. The plan includes key strategies and actions to address the additional challenges for the Fall that will require attention in Ontario's response to COVID-19: flu season, the backlog of surgeries and procedures and reduced capacity in long-term care homes due to the suspension of 3-bed and 4-bed rooms. Recruitment, retention and support of health care workers will continue to be a focal point in our Fall Plan, with a particular emphasis on addressing the impact of workforce burnout.
 - Ministry of Health and Ontario Health are conducting the first regional scenario planning exercise this week to practice and further strengthen operational readiness for the Fall.

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