

September 9, 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:

- **Ongoing monitoring of key indicators to inform provincial reopening decisions**
 - The Command Table continues to monitor rising case trends in the community and testing turnaround times. On September 8th, the government announced that it is taking a 28-day pause in the further loosening of public health measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 and support a safe return to schools.
 - The Command Table is refreshing its monitoring tools as we head into the fall to understand the sources of rising case trends and impact of re-openings on health system capacity, including health care workers.
- **Continuing efforts to ensure that Ontario's public education and public health systems are ready to respond quickly in the event of a school outbreak.**
 - The Rapid Response Table reported in on work with the Ministry of Education to implement new school board reporting requirements, as well as the development of parent guidance documents and a student screening tool.
 - Command Table is seeking to better understand the potential impacts that a return to school and any potential classroom closures may have on health human resources and the delivery of health care services.
- **The formation of the new Provincial Preparedness Outbreak Response Working Group, led by Dr. Dirk Huyer, who will serve as the Coordinator of the Provincial Outbreak Response.**
 - This working group will support the provincial development of sector-specific outbreak management plans and identify emerging issues based on a consistent provincial view of COVID-19 data and outbreaks.

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

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

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