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April 13, 2020

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

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

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In follow-up to our last communication, we are pleased to share the following updates from the provincial Command Table on key actions that are being taken to address COVID-19:

- Further actions to contain outbreaks and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care (LTC) homes and retirement homes. These actions include:
  - o A review of escalated requests for PPE: The Ministry's Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC) **responded to every escalated request for PPE** from LTC homes and retirement homes **within 24 hours**. This resulted in **102 LTC homes and 16 retirement homes** receiving supplies over the weekend. This activity was highlighted in the Premier's [announcement](#) earlier today.
  - o Implementation plans for further testing: Working closely with Ontario Health to ensure that LTC homes and retirement homes have the supports they need to effectively implement the [updated testing guidance](#).
  - o Consideration and assessment of additional measures: A review of measures to further strengthen infection control protocols including staffing considerations.
  
- Continued actions to **increase testing for vulnerable populations** including in First Nations and remote communities and those living in congregate settings.

The Command Table's actions continue to be informed by modelling and projection data. A review of this data illustrates the **positive impact of the public health measures implemented to date** and confirm that the preparatory actions to expand health system capacity are **on track** to address increasing demands.

Nonetheless, sustaining these trends moving forward will rely on **continued adherence to public health measures** and early identification of any projected changes to demand

to enable adjustments to regional and local capacity plans. This modeling is also informing goals and targets for each stream of work which are helping to focus activities and drive progress.

Sincerely,

*(original signed by)*

Helen Angus  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Health

Dr. David Williams  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
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Matthew Anderson  
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Ontario Health