

August 21, 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 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:

- **Continuing to review emerging scientific data on COVID-19 to inform fall planning**
  - Command Table discussed the developing body of evidence on how children and adolescents are impacted by, or contribute to, the spread of COVID-19.
- **Reviewing the results of recent tabletop exercises to support operational readiness for a potential “Wave 2” of COVID-19**
  - Command Table reviewed key themes identified during the exercises, which included:
    - Clearly defined crisis governance;
    - Clarifying processes for flexible health system resource deployment;
    - Testing, tracing, and isolating;
    - Relationship building between health and non-health organizations; and
    - Clear, timely communication.
- **Continuing preparations to rapidly respond to potential outbreak scenarios, in partnership with local public health partners**
  - Command Table discussed recent engagement with local Medical Officers of Health on key actions to quickly respond to outbreaks in daycares or day camps, as well as in post-secondary institutions.

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

Sincerely,

*(original signed by)*

Helen Angus  
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Ministry of Health

Dr. David Williams  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson  
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