

July 7, 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:

- **The development of a new COVID-19 surveillance strategy** to more effectively monitor and control the spread of the virus, **guided by the work of a new Surveillance Strategy Working Group.**
 - The strategy will build on existing surveillance infrastructure and support the collection, analysis, dissemination, and interpretation of information to improve our understanding of the virus.
 - This work will leverage expertise from public health, medical microbiology, laboratory science, infectious diseases and epidemiology and supplemented by additional expertise as required.
- **Ongoing efforts to enhance case and contact management capacity and expedite the ability of public health to trace positive COVID-19 cases and associated contacts.**
 - This includes developing data solutions that will integrate information across data platforms to support coordinated case and contact management efforts.
 - We are working with Public Health Ontario to share and apply lessons learned from recent outbreak responses across all the public health units to support the implementation of case and contact management system efficiencies.
 - Work is also ongoing with local public health partners and community associations to strengthen case and contact management in vulnerable communities.

As work on these priorities continues, we are continuing to support data reporting and analytics to monitor cases and support planning for the Fall, including influenza season and a potential second wave.

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
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Dr. David Williams
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