

May 15, 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 address COVID-19:

- Continued actions to **support the implementation of the [first stage](#) of the government's reopening framework**. This includes:
  - Close and ongoing monitoring of public health metrics to carefully assess the impact of reopening activities and the evolution of the outbreak to guide future decision-making;
  - Working with the health sector to support capacity planning for the resumption of scheduled surgeries and procedures;
  - Developing revisions to CMOH Directive #2 to enable the gradual resumption and ramp up of health services as part of reopening; and
  - Ongoing actions to support the implementation of Ontario's updated testing strategy to expand access to testing for Ontarians with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Sustained efforts to **address and prevent outbreaks in long-term care homes**. Building on the successful completion of testing for all residents and staff in homes across the province within the two-week target timeline, the government is:
  - Working in collaboration with Ontario Health and sector partners, including hospitals, to **develop stabilization plans for homes with critical needs**.
  - Working with the long-term care home sector and Ontario Health to **develop strategies to support front-line workers to safely return to their workplace** in long-term care homes across Ontario.
- Developing plans to **reduce data reporting burden** on the health sector during the COVID-19 outbreak, including:
  - **Optimizing current reporting requirements and reducing inefficiencies**.
  - Improving stakeholder **access to COVID-19 information** for health sector professionals.

- Reducing data collection by identifying redundant or non-essential reporting requirements that can be streamlined or paused.

We thank you for your continued work to support the implementation of our provincial efforts to respond to the pandemic and plan for 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  
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Ontario Health