

September 16, 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:

- **Enhancing Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures to quickly respond to outbreaks.**
  - The Ministry of Health is working with the Ministry of Long-Term Care, the Ministry of Seniors Affairs and Accessibility and Ontario Health to implement a model that will support the fast and effective deployment of IPAC supports where they are needed most.
- **Supporting and expanding health human resource capacity to enable the continued delivery of routine health services and address surges in cases.**
  - Leveraging tools such as the Workforce Matching Portal, planning for the fall is focused on providing additional supports for current health care workers and expanding the number of staff in priority sectors.
- **Closely monitoring the reopening of schools and implementing new screening supports for students, parents and staff.**
  - The Command Table received an update from the Ministry of Education on child- and school-related cases to date, including infections of students and staff.
  - The Ministry of Education is ensuring that any screening tools developed by school boards and public health units are aligned with the provincial screening tool for students, parents and staff, which was released on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **Ongoing monitoring of epidemiological data (e.g., case counts and rates, transmission rates, public health capacity, health system capacity) to adapt the provincial response as necessary**

- The Public Health Measures Table continues to provide advice on how public health measures can be adjusted to respond to outbreaks and trends in community transmission.
- The Provincial Preparedness and Outbreak Response Working Group is also working with Ministries across the government to develop sector-specific outbreak management plans and risk assessments, considering the roles of IPAC, visitor policies, staffing, public health measures, and other factors, in an appropriate response.

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)*

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