

September 30, 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 ensure that Ontario's health care system is prepared for the Fall influenza season and effectively responding to COVID-19, including:

- **Deploying multiple strategies to address the urgent need for more health human resources (HHR) capacity in long-term care homes and other settings with critical staffing shortages.**
 - This week, the government announced a suite of additional investments to recruit, retain and support more health care workers, including enhancements to the Ontario Matching Portal, Nursing Graduate Guarantee and a Personal Support Worker (PSW) Return of Service Program.
 - In addition to these initiatives, the ministry is working with Ontario Health, hospitals, service provider organizations and long-term care home providers to identify a pool of skilled workers who can be immediately deployed to fill gaps.
 - The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Long-term Care are also working with Ontario Health to create regional hubs to facilitate better coordination of IPAC resources and professionals across community-based congregate care settings.
- **Considering additional advice and recommendations from the Public Health Measures on the further tightening of public health measures to address rising case counts.**
 - In addition to the new province-wide public health measures [announced](#) by the government on September 25th, the Public Health Measures Table is considering additional public health measures in regions where transmission rates are highest.

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
Ministry of Health

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

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