

November 18, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions

This week, the Health Coordination Table focused on the following key actions to enable Ontario's health care system to effectively respond to COVID-19:

- **Identifying new and innovative strategies to address ongoing high case counts, ensure sufficient health system capacity and maintain routine health services delivery.**
 - The Ministry of Health is working with health system partners on options to further enhance home care capacity to provide personal support services.
- **Supporting ongoing efforts to prevent, limit and manage the spread of disease in workplaces, including targeted campaigns in response to local needs.**
 - The Ministry of Health continues to work with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, Public Health Ontario and the local public health units to provide support, advice, and enforcement as needed to help protect the health and safety of Ontario's workers.
- **Continuing to protect residents and health care workers in long-term care homes.**
 - The Ministry of Long-Term Care is working with the Canadian Red Cross to share infection protection and control expertise with, and further scale up supports for high-risk homes.
 - The Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care continue to work with Ontario Health to enhance surveillance testing in long-term care homes, including providing additional supports and identifying opportunities to decrease testing turnaround times.

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

Matthew Anderson
President and CEO
Ontario Health