

September 9th, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Planning 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:

- **Planning for the next phase of the testing strategy that includes enhancements for students' return to school and implementation of vaccination policies across sectors.**
 - The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Ontario Health, and the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, has implemented a school testing plan, including a pilot program in targeted secondary schools to enable vaccinated students in exposed cohorts to take home self-testing kits in order to support timely return to in-person learning.
 - Rapid antigen tests are also being widely deployed to sectors implicated by provincial vaccination policies to enable them to meet the mandatory testing requirements for unvaccinated individuals.
 - The ministry will maintain diagnostic testing capacity, transition specimen collection to the community, and promote less invasive COVID-19 specimen collection methods.
- **Implementing strategies to establish new health and human resource capacity and enabling policies for redeployment and recruitment.**
 - The ministry, in collaboration with Ontario Health and system partners, is continuing to expand health and human resource capacity through existing emergency orders to extend scope of practice, enacting plans to recruit out of province resources, and enabling redeployment of health and human resources to the greatest areas of need.
- **Reinforcing outbreak management supports with Public Health Units across the Province.**
 - The Ministry of Health and the public health units are reinforcing outbreak management and infection prevention and control (IPAC) supports by clarifying available resources, sharing of best practices, and strengthening the governance structure.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Dr. Catherine Zahn
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson
President and CEO
Ontario Health