

May 8, 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 the following updates from the provincial Command Table on key actions that are being taken to address COVID-19:

- **Active monitoring and continual assessment** to ensure that the actions taken to date are effectively protecting our most vulnerable and priority populations and responding to immediate needs on the ground. This includes:
 - Further progress to support and stabilize **long-term care homes and other congregate settings**, including tracking daily progress made toward the completion of testing for all long-term care home residents.
 - Actively monitoring the impact of the pandemic across **Indigenous communities**, including working collaboratively with the federal government and local Indigenous communities to understand support needs across different communities and respond in a coordinated way.
 - The Ministry of Health, Ontario Health, and public health units are engaged with First Nations communities and Indigenous organizations through regional processes.
 - This local engagement is helping to ensure access to **personal protective equipment (PPE)**, support **access to testing services**, and ensure alignment between Ontario's approach on public health measures and actions being taken by the federal government.
- **Active planning for the recovery of the health system**, including the release of [A Measured Approach to Planning for Surgeries and Procedures during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This framework enables local planning for the gradual resumption of scheduled surgeries and procedures, while maintaining capacity to respond to COVID-19. The ministry is also monitoring other crucial sectors in the health system, including the **home and community care** sector. Stability in this sector is critical for the gradual resumption of scheduled and elective surgeries in hospitals.

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
President and CEO
Ontario Health