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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 potential future waves of COVID-19, including:

- **Continued monitoring of public health and health system metrics to support the resumption of regular health care activities**
 - Command Table focused on a review of changes in the utilization of primary care physician services during wave one of the pandemic. While there has been an overall decrease in the number of general practitioner and counselling services, a greater proportion of these services were delivered virtually.
 - The Primary Care Advisory Table will provide advice on areas of opportunity for further guidance to support the ramp-up of primary care services.
- **Continued health system planning to support preparedness for the Fall influenza season and potential future waves of COVID-19**
 - Command Table reviewed the Ministry of Long-Term Care's stabilization plan. The goal of the plan is to build capacity in the long-term care sector so it is ready and able to respond to the pandemic, while ensuring the health, safety and well being of residents and staff.
 - Numerous actions are planned or underway to support four strategic priorities:
 - Building human resources capacity, including clinical leadership and the role of caregivers;
 - Ensuring safety and infection prevention and control capacity;
 - Improving partnerships with regional health system partners; and
 - Robust surveillance and risk assessment.
- **Reviewing the latest scientific advancements related to the pandemic to inform planning**
 - Command Table reviewed information on vaccine developments for COVID-19.

- Early studies are showing promising results, however timelines for completing vaccine development remain uncertain.

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
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