

Office of the Deputy Minister

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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 address COVID-19:

Sustaining capacity to quickly detect and contain outbreaks in our most vulnerable settings and **manage community spread** as regions gradually enter the next phase of recovery:

- The Ministry of Long-Term Care is working with public health, system partners and long-term care homes to support timely and regular testing for all staff.
- We continue to evaluate testing activities and refine testing priorities to ensure that our daily testing capacity is being effectively utilized.
- We are working with public health to implement initiatives to reduce the number of new cases without an identified source of infection (i.e. travel, contact with a confirmed case, or outbreak-associated).

Reviewing and adapting the provincial health response structures and processes to effectively plan for the future, including:

- Prioritizing a population-based and integrated approach to the next phases of our pandemic response, ensuring we are ready to take nimble and decisive action in case of a Wave 2.
- Working to anticipate the structures, supports, and responses that Ontarians and the health system will require in the coming months, while ensuring that the best evidence and advice informs decision-making.

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