

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:

Targeted actions to support the government's [announcement](#) to move forward with a regional approach to Stage 2 of reopening the province. In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and local health officials, the government announced it is easing restrictions in communities where it is safe to do so, based on trends of key public health indicators such as lower rates of transmission, sufficient capacity in hospitals, and progress made in testing. Actions include:

- **Maintaining a focus on evidence-based actions to address the pandemic** with advice from existing advisory tables and new tables where needed.
 - The Health Command Table continues to provide advice and recommendations to government based on the valuable data and information received from experts convened at tables including the Data Modelling Table, Rapid Response Table, and Public Health Measures Table.
 - As we look ahead and prepare for the Fall, we will continue to seek advice from experts to support an evidence-driven pandemic response at the provincial and regional levels.
- **Continuing actions to support progress toward recovery and reopening across all regions of the province.**
 - We continue to work closely with Ontario Health and health system partners to support the implementation of enhanced testing, including risk-based asymptomatic testing in congregate care settings such as long-term care homes and retirement homes.
 - The government is preparing to implement an updated approach on case and contact management, which will support the timely tracing and isolation of cases and contacts. This approach will provide critical data on how the disease is spreading within communities and help to quickly identify and contain outbreaks as the province reopens.

- We continue to work with local public health partners at the Rapid Response Table to design and implement fast and effective responses to new outbreaks, building on lessons learned from other jurisdictions.

We thank you for your continued work to support the implementation of our provincial efforts 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