

May 6, 2020

**MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers**

**SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions**

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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:

- Planning discussions regarding the **reprocessing of clinical personal protective equipment (PPE)**, including N95 masks.
  - Reprocessing of PPE is an approach being considered as a contingency plan to ensure supply, as the province plans for a phased resumption of additional health care services, including scheduled procedures in hospitals.
  - The ministry will work closely with Ontario Health and its health system partners to further review this issue, including reviewing evidence to determine options for safely reprocessing clinical PPE for front-line workers.
- Providing [additional information](#) to support implementation of the Government's April 25<sup>th</sup> [announcement](#) on temporary pandemic pay for eligible frontline and support workers fighting COVID-19.
  - The website shares program parameters to support greater clarity as the program is implemented. The Ministry continues to work with partners across the health system and within government to ensure alignment in approaches on pandemic pay and will issue further implementation guidance shortly.
- Continuing efforts to **support long-term care homes in addressing and preventing outbreaks**, including support for the **provision of health human resources and IPAC supports** for homes and other congregate settings, as well as **completing testing for all residents** in long-term care homes.

Alongside these efforts to manage the spread of the disease in our most vulnerable populations and build the capacity needed to respond, we continue to actively monitor a **suite of indicators to support decision making on the staged reopening of the province**, as outlined in [A Framework for Reopening our Province](#). Decision making is being supported by province-wide metrics as well as regional analysis to develop an understanding of how different areas of Ontario are being affected by and are responding to COVID-19.

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