

September 23, 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 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 effectively responding to COVID-19, including:

- **Actively monitoring the pandemic's progression, including the risk for increased spread and taking decisive action.**
 - The Long-Term Care Incident Management System (IMS) structure has been reconstituted in response to a concerning increase in the number of home outbreaks. The IMS is closely tracking the number of cases in long-term care homes, proactively conducting infection prevention, and intervening in those homes where there are positive cases.
 - Command Table is also closely monitoring case trends and outbreaks in schools, child care, and congregate care settings.
- **Reviewing emerging evidence from the Science Advisory Table to better understand the pandemic's progression and its impact on health system capacity.**
 - Command Table reviewed projections of the COVID-19 curve trajectory and the potential impact on health system resource capacity. This work included updated scenarios for wave 2 of the pandemic based on events unfolding in Ontario's peer jurisdictions.
 - The Science Advisory Table also presented evidence related to self-testing and implementation considerations for asymptomatic testing.
 - Command Table considered evidence regarding whether and how quarantine durations for travelers may be reduced and the potential implications for the economy.
- **Continuing to develop a framework to support implementation of public health measures and sector-specific actions in response to changing rates of transmission of COVID-19.**

We thank you for your continued work to respond to the pandemic and implement a phased recovery.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

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Dr. David Williams
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