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**MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers****SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions**

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This week, the Health Coordination Table focused on the following key actions to enable Ontario's health care system to effectively respond to COVID-19:

- **Supporting load-balancing across the health system to alleviate increasing pressures on hospital capacity and ensure that acute and critical care patients receive the care they need.**
  - The Ministry of Health and Ontario Health are providing regional COVID-19 response structures and hospitals with the timely information and data needed to support the expedient transfer of patients between hospitals and to other appropriate health care facilities within and across regions.
- **Reviewed the latest trends in pandemic epidemiology and health system indicators and updated findings regarding the impact of response efforts to reduce disease transmission.**
  - The Science Advisory and Modelling Consensus Tables presented the latest COVID-19 case projections, trends and their expected impacts on public health and health system capacity. Health Coordination Table will provide its advice to the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care on how to respond to the new trends and case projections.
- **Implementing additional targeted health human resources (HHR) programs to increase the supply, distribution and retention of the health workforce where they are needed most.**
  - New programs are planned to address critical nursing shortages and effectively direct resources to the highest need settings, including to hospitals, which continue to provide patient care, support the LTC sector, operate Assessment Centres, and ramp up COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

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