

November 25, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions

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:

- **Identifying the critical considerations, supports and logistics required to enable the timely execution of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine program.**
 - On November 23rd, the government [announced](#) the Ministers' COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force, which will focus on cross-functional planning activities to support: vaccine delivery, storage, distribution and administration; clinical guidance and surveillance; data, information technology and reporting; and public education and outreach. The Health Coordination Table will receive regular updates on the vaccine program and the work of the new Task Force.
- **Ongoing focus on health workforce planning to address critical health human resource (HHR) gaps across the health care system.**
 - Targeted activities are planned and underway to address professional, geographic and sector-specific HHR needs in response to COVID-19 and broader system gaps.
- **Ensuring continued access to personal protective equipment for frontline health care providers.**
 - The Ministry, in partnership with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, will be implementing changes to streamline the process and make it easier for providers to receive PPE from the provincial emergency stockpile when they need it.
- **Implementing additional targeted actions to support communities with high rates of COVID-19, that are also facing barriers related to broader social determinants of health.**
 - Together with Ontario Health, regional system partners and the communities they serve, the Ministry will use an equity-based and integrated approach to identify additional wrap-around supports for high priority communities that would be locally led and coordinated to address and respond to local community needs.

- This work will be guided and informed by the latest evidence and research on the socio-demographic impacts of the pandemic and the effectiveness of community tailored interventions.

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
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Ministry of Health

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