

August 17th, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Planning 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:

- **Reviewing the experience, impact, and lessons learned from the Delta variant in the Region of Waterloo.**
 - In support of the ministry's active preparation for the Fall season, representatives from the Region of Waterloo's public health and the hospital sectors presented on their experience responding to the Delta variant.
 - Ontario Health presented data on the trends in the hospitals and congregate settings - such as long-term care, retirement homes, and shelters -- and the challenges that the Region of Waterloo faced within these settings, while in active outbreak.
 - Key learnings included the importance of infection prevention and control adherence, the need for broad testing, and the vulnerability of the unvaccinated to this variant. Presenters emphasized the need for mental health supports for health and human resources (HHR), the re-deployment of HHR to congregate care, and continued collaboration across the healthcare system as key actions to combat the Delta variant in Ontario.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Helen Angus
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson
President and CEO
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