

August 25th, 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 recent data on the Delta variant (B.1.617.2) in Ontario and other jurisdictions.**
 - The Chief Medical Officer of Health presented the most recent evidence and data on the Delta variant, which is the most dominant strain of COVID-19 in Ontario. The data provides insights into transmissibility, severity of symptoms and vaccine effectiveness.
- **Carrying out actions and next steps in the fall preparedness plan.**
 - The Ministry of Health provided an update on the actions being undertaken to prepare for a range of possible COVID-19 scenarios in the fall and strengthen response capacity.
 - The Health Coordination Table identified additional emerging risks to monitor and consider in the fall preparedness planning, including increasing caregiver distress and streamlining patient pathways.
- **Implementing the fall back to school plan for COVID-19 in schools across Ontario.**
 - The Ministry of Education gave an overview of the province's back to school plan to prepare schools for the return to in-person learning in September. Key components include improvements to air quality, the procurement of PPE and additional infection control supplies, enhanced access to testing and greater promotion of vaccinations.
 - The plan emphasizes building upon lessons from the 2020-21 school year and maintaining readiness to respond to a variety of emerging scenarios through strong monitoring of data and partnerships with local public health units, school boards and labour tables.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

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Deputy Minister
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