

Ministry of Health

Ministère de la Santé



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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:

- **Developing a prioritization framework and options for local consideration, to leverage the paramedic workforce to support various services.**
 - As part of the strategy to address health human resource needs across the health care system, the paramedic workforce has been identified as an important resource to support critical services such as inter-facility transfers, COVID vaccinations, point-of-care testing and supports at home for long-term care and alternative level of care patients.
 - The ministry intends to consult with key stakeholders on its draft prioritization framework to inform local decisions on the allocation of paramedic services outside of emergency response and acute inter-facility transfers.
- **Continuing efforts to emphasize and augment public health measures in long-term care, with a focus on IPAC precautions, rapid antigen screening, testing and reporting procedures.**
 - The Ministry of Long-Term Care has been reinforcing IPAC measures in the sector and continues to support the sector to expand rapid antigen testing as a key preventative approach to the containment of outbreaks in long-term care homes.
 - Updated tools and supports have been provided to the sector to ensure that all reporting of outbreak data is as accurate and easy as possible.

- **Presentation of most recent scientific data and evidence from the Science Advisory Table to inform advice to government on the ongoing pandemic response.**
 - The latest COVID-19 case projections, trends and their expected impacts on public health and health system capacity were reviewed.
 - Evidence on the effectiveness of the pharmaceutical Ivermectin in the treatment of COVID-19 was presented as requiring additional clinical evidence to support its use in Ontario.
 - COVID-19 case rate data correlating to specific neighbourhoods was reviewed, to demonstrate the variability of the pandemic burden in Ontario. The analysis presented suggested that a potential input to vaccine prioritization could be based on a combination of age and neighbourhood, as opposed to age alone. The ministry is considering this information as it develops and delivers the vaccine roll out strategy.

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
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