

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:

- **Reviewing developing evidence on variants of concern and emerging variants of interest (Delta and B.1.621) in Ontario.**
 - Public Health Ontario presented current evidence on the variant B.1.617.2, also known as the Delta variant, which is now the predominant variant in Ontario.
 - Emerging evidence on the variant B.1.621 was also shared. This is a variant of interest in Europe which contains common mutations to other variants of concern.
- **Examining data in Ontario and other jurisdictions on COVID-19 cases caused by the Delta variant.**
 - The Ministry of Health presented data on Delta variant cases in Ontario and the spread of this variant among vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
 - This presentation compared Ontario's COVID-19 cases, hospital and ICU occupancy, vaccination rates, mobility index and public health measures stringency index to Israel, Portugal, Russia and the UK.
 - The Ministry of Health continues to monitor variants of concern and variants of interest utilizing trends from other jurisdictions.
- **Planning for COVID-19 scenarios in the Fall.**
 - The Ministry of Health continued to proactively plan for the Fall, through engagement with the Health Coordination Table on the capacity and resources required to rapidly respond to a range of scenarios in the Fall.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Helen Angus
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health

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Chief Medical Officer of Health
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