

March 31, 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 most recent scientific evidence and modelling to inform advice to government on the ongoing pandemic response.**
 - The Science Advisory and Modelling Consensus Tables presented the latest COVID-19 case projections and trends, and the anticipated impacts on overall cases and health system capacity over the coming weeks.
 - Evidence relating to the reduced risk of COVID-19 transmission in outdoor settings compared to indoor settings was presented.
- **Planning the response to a potential surge in hospital capacity by analyzing data and response options to meet projected capacity pressures over the coming weeks.**
 - In collaboration with Ontario Health and system partners, the ministry is monitoring hospital utilization data and projections, planning for surges, managing patient flow and developing strategies to support patients in other settings. The two mobile health units, developed with assistance from the federal government, have been constructed and preparations are underway to deploy them as required.
 - In order to meet the health human resource needs to staff the additional critical care capacity and stabilize the existing workforce, the ministry is considering the expansion and extension of existing nursing recruitment initiatives and the return of service programs. Concurrently, the ministry is focused on developing the necessary infrastructure to hire and train the health workforce to be deployed and ready to support the vaccine rollout.

- **Ongoing efforts to re-evaluate policies and guidelines within long-term care to ensure quality of life, safety and protection of all residents, staff and caregivers.**
 - The Ministry of Long-term Care will be reviewing and assessing current guidelines and policies in consideration of the increased vaccination rates among long-term care residents, staff and caregivers.

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
President and CEO
Ontario Health