

May 19, 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 the province on the ongoing pandemic response.**
 - The Science Advisory and Modelling Consensus Tables presented the latest COVID-19 case projections and trends, and the projected impact of the rollout of the vaccination plan on health system indicators.
- **Examining attitudes and behaviours towards public health measures to inform future public health guidance and messaging.**
 - The Health Behaviour Surveillance Study, commissioned by the Ministry of Health, has completed its third stage of engagement. Research illustrated the changes in risk, adherence and attitudes between waves, and the impact of vaccines. This work will continue to be considered as the ministry plans future public health messaging and guidance.
- **Ongoing efforts to tailor public health messaging and communications to promote understanding of and adherence to public health measures.**
 - The ministry is continuing to rollout digital campaigns on vaccines, public health measures, and restrictions through the Ontario website, social media, and technical briefings to enhance the understanding of updated measures.
 - The ministry is also engaging with community leaders and working to raise awareness regarding the benefits of vaccines and public health measures at the local level.

- **Updating guidelines within the long-term care sector based on vaccination rates, to continue to prevent, manage, and monitor the spread of COVID-19.**
 - On May 4th, 2021 the Chief Medical Officer of Health issued amendments to [Directive 3](#), to enhance resident quality of life in consideration of vaccination efforts within long-term care. The Ministry of Long-Term Care released a guidance document to support the implementation of the amended directive. In addition, Ministry of Long-Term Care is promoting vaccine confidence among staff and caregivers through educational sessions that emphasize the benefits of vaccinations and combat misinformation.

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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