

May 26, 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:

- **Monitoring the restart of non-urgent and non-emergent surgeries.**
 - Surgical procedures were ramped down on April 20th with the issuance of Directive 2 to manage a rise in COVID hospitalizations, staffing needs, and increased infection, prevention and control (IPAC) requirements. The ministry, in collaboration with Ontario Health, has begun work to support hospitals to restart scheduled outpatient surgeries as Directive 2 was rescinded on May 19th, 2021.
 - In order to ensure an equitable and efficient recovery towards restoring pre-pandemic surgical volumes, efforts will encourage centralized waitlists, maximizing regional planning, pursuing data driven approaches and supporting overall surgical flow within hospitals.

- **Assessing the impact of vaccinations, in combination with public health measures, on COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.**
 - The ministry provided an update on the progress of the vaccine rollout and shared the most recent data on COVID related hospitalizations and daily COVID cases, since mass vaccination efforts in the province began, earlier this year.
 - The data provides evidence that there has been a reduction in overall COVID cases and in the hospitalization rate as a result of both public health measures and vaccination efforts.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Helen Angus
Deputy Minister
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Dr. David Williams
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