

March 12, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions

As we committed last week, we are sharing frequent communications from the provincial Command Table, as we prepare for and address COVID-19.

The Command Table met this morning and discussed key topics to focus our preparations, including:

- Plans to quickly initiate augmented **Telehealth capacity** with networks of clinical and broader public sector support to ensure that Ontarians can get the information they need quickly and are referred to appropriate screening and treatment options.
- Advice on social distancing measures including:
 - o **Travel**: recommendations with respect to non-essential travel and travel with children
 - o **Mass gatherings**: guidance on restricting mass gatherings and other precautions
 - o **Visitor and staff policies in health care settings**: guidance to enhance the screening of all visitors, staff, patients/residents/clients for all health care settings
 - o **School closures**: guidance to the Ministry of Education concerning ongoing operations of public schoolsThis advice is being formalized through the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- The opening of **assessment centres** on an accelerated timeline, while ensuring a coordinated approach to information-sharing with Telehealth, labs, and other delivery partners.
- Continued planning concerning Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) through a dedicated **(PPE) Table** to focus solely on **operational issues**, including the supply and distribution of PPE and enable greater cross-sector collaboration to address broader supply chain issues.

- Continued collaboration with key sector stakeholder associations to enable the **enhanced delivery of virtual care** options by health care providers.
- Establishment of a dedicated table to address **labour and health human resource issues**.
- Developing an approach to address how the **broader community and social services and voluntary sectors** can be mobilized to support implementation of COVID-10 response measures, including support for patients in self-isolation.

The above steps will be implemented over the next few days and we will communicate with you about them as they are put into place.

We thank you for your continued preparations to ensure readiness for business continuity within your organization and for your contributions to the health system's readiness.

Thank you for your ongoing care and support of your patients and communities.

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
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