

April 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions

The Command Table discussed actions to prepare for implementation of the government's recovery plan, [A Framework for Reopening our Province](#), while also continuing to protect vulnerable populations in Ontario's long-term care homes and other congregate settings.

Ongoing actions to support long-term care homes include the following:

- **Continuing enhanced testing of residents and staff in all long-term care homes.** To support a consistent focus on testing across the province, the Ministry of Health will establish targets for public health units to coordinate the **completion of testing in all long-term care homes within two weeks**. The Ministry of Health and Ontario Health will work with public health units to ensure they have the necessary local supports to meet these targets – further direction, including the targets for each public health unit jurisdiction, will be issued later this week.
- Updating direction issued to hospitals on April 16th regarding the **transfer of hospital patients to long-term care homes**: A memo issued on April 29th provides clarification on when patients in hospitals can be discharged to a long-term care home.

In parallel, active preparations are being taken to support a safe, gradual loosening of emergency measures in Ontario, including resuming elective/scheduled procedures. Ontario Health is working with provider partners to bring forward a **staged, measured plan to safely resume elective/scheduled procedures**. This plan will consider how to safely resume procedures while maintaining surge capacity in the health system, local capacity to provide health human resources and IPAC supports to long-term care homes and other congregate settings.

We are also taking swift action to protect children and staff in child care centres across the province. This includes working with the Ministry of Education to develop testing guidance for child care settings that will prioritize testing for staff to support the early identification and prevention of outbreaks. The safety of our children and essential workers will continue to be a priority as we carefully consider the next steps to reopen Ontario's economy.

We thank you for your continued work to support the implementation of our provincial efforts to respond to the pandemic and plan for 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

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