

Ministry of Health

Assistant Deputy Minister
Ontario Health Insurance Plan Division

1075 Bay Street, 6th Floor
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Tel.: 416-327-8929

Ministère de la Santé

Sous-ministre adjointe
Division du Régime d'Assurance- santé de l'Ontario

1075 Rue Bay, 6^{ème} étage
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Tél.: 416-327-8929



DATE: April 8, 2021

TO: Sarah Hobbs, Alliance for Healthier Communities
Kavita Mehta, Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario
Caroline Lidstone-Jones, Indigenous Primary Health Care Council
Jennifer Clement, Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic Association
Leanne Clarke, Ontario College of Family Physicians
Allan O'Dette and Jim Wright, Ontario Medical Association
Allie Kinnaird, OMA Section on General and Family Practice

FROM: Patrick Dicteri
Interim Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager
Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) Division

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccination Update

I am writing you today to share some additional information and request further assistance in the work to ramp up the primary care sector's involvement in COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

We have communicated to all 34 Public Health Units (PHUs) the need for continued strong collaboration between PHUs and primary care providers and have encouraged all PHUs to optimize the use and participation of physicians, physician groups and primary care teams, including their premises, where feasible

In addition, the Ministry's Primary Health Care Branch has sent a memo to all interprofessional primary care teams urgently that interprofessional primary care teams support the redeployment of their publicly funded resources to assist in the administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

While PHUs are responsible for vaccine allocation, ancillary supplies, and distribution to designated primary care providers, we ask that you leverage your networks and encourage your members to help contact all patients eligible based on age or medical risks to receive the vaccine. We have requested that all PHUs ensure primary care providers have the appropriate local information to share with their patients regarding the vaccine strategy.

We have shared the list of primary care leads that you confirmed and that PHUs may contact as they further develop their plans for optimizing the use and participation of primary care to maximize vaccine throughput. We will also convene a meeting this week of the PHU and primary care contacts to share information and provide updates on the vaccine rollout to support the PHU and primary care collaboration.

I want to thank each and every one of you and the membership of your organizations for your ongoing partnership and collaboration on what will be the most ambitious immunization campaign in Ontario's history.



Patrick Dicerri

c: Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister - Pandemic Response and Recovery
Nadia Surani, Director, Primary Health Care Branch, OHIP Division, MOH
Dr. David Price, Chair, Provincial Primary Care Advisory Table
Jodi Melnychuk, Director, Vaccine Planning and Engagement Branch
Marnie MacKinnon, Director, Vaccine Implementation Branch
Daniel Warshafsky, Senior Medical Consultant, Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health