

May 11, 2020

**MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers**

**SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions**

---

In follow-up to our last communication, we are pleased to share additional updates from the provincial Command Table on key actions that are being taken to address COVID-19. Key activities include:

- Working to **improve the speed and capacity for case and contact management** across the province to stop the spread of COVID-19 and ensure a reliable system is in place to support the province's recovery.
  - The Ministry of Health is working with public health and system partners to reach a goal of having 90 per cent of new COVID-19 cases reached by local public health officials within 24 hours of knowing about the case. This is a key indicator to inform the gradual reopening of the economy.
  - We are also working with Public Health Ontario, public health units, and other partners to ensure that human resources are available to support implementation of timely and effective case and contact management in the event of outbreaks or unexpected demands.
- Continuing progress toward achieving our goal of **completing testing for all residents of long-term care homes** across Ontario by the end of this week, while **expanding our daily testing capacity**. As our testing capacity grows, we are considering how to:
  - Sustain our testing efforts in long-term care homes and other congregate care settings to keep residents safe and prevent further outbreaks; and
  - Expand our strategy to increase surveillance at the community-level.
- Planning to provide **enhanced supports to stabilize those long-term care homes in critical need** through the continued deployment of health human resources and infection prevention and control supports from the broader health system and Canadian Armed Forces.

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

Matthew Anderson  
President and CEO  
Ontario Health