

May 13, 2020

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

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

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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:

- Continuing actions to **support Ontario's gradual reopening**, building on progress made through adherence to public health measures to date.
  - As the growth rate of cases in Ontario slows, and other positive epidemiological trends continue, ongoing efforts will help Ontario prepare to reopen.
  - The government is reviewing a variety of **technological options and supports** to enable more effective **case and contact tracing** to ensure that cases are identified quickly and any outbreaks are contained.
  - Ongoing work with data modelling experts will inform and support the gradual reopening of the province. This work will consider socioeconomic and demographic data to support an understanding of how the pandemic is impacting different sub-populations.
- Reviewing updates to the **province's testing strategy** that would consider expanded testing criteria to closely monitor community spread.
  - The updated testing strategy will build on lessons learned from the implementation of expanded testing in long-term care homes. Learnings will inform **expanded surveillance approaches**, as well as further testing of vulnerable and priority populations.
- Providing additional supports to address outbreaks in long-term care homes, including through a [new Executive Order announced on May 13](#), which allows the province to issue management orders for long-term care homes struggling with an outbreak.
  - The Executive Order will support the use of rapid, immediate and effective management alternatives to protect the residents and staff within homes hardest hit by the pandemic and needing additional support.

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