

May 4, 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 the following updates from the provincial Command Table on key actions that are being taken to address COVID-19:

- Developing a measured approach to guide the **gradual ramping up of elective/scheduled surgeries in hospitals**.
  - The Ministry of Health is working with Ontario Health to provide guidance to the health system, based on recommendations from the agency's Surgical and Procedural Planning Committee, that will enable an equitable, measured, and responsive approach for expanding elective/scheduled surgeries.
  - The guidance will include **pre-conditions and considerations relating to bed capacity, health human resources, and Clinical Supplies and Equipment including personal protective equipment**.
  - This approach will ensure a safe resumption of surgeries while maintaining surge capacity in the health system, including local capacity to provide health human resources and IPAC supports to long-term care homes and other congregate settings.
- **Increasing testing and contact tracing capacity**, allowing health experts to identify cases of COVID-19 and support efforts to stop the spread of the virus in the community, long-term care homes, and other congregate settings.
  - Ontario has increased testing capacity and is now **exceeding** 16,000 tests a day, with many of those tests aimed at protecting long-term care residents and staff.
  - Working with public health units to support enhanced contact tracing, case management and other public health measures, including information and information technology supports.
- Continued focus to identify, address, and prevent outbreaks, in long-term care homes, including **completing testing of all LTC home residents**, as well as regional partnerships **to supplement staffing in homes**, including human resources support from health system partners such as local hospitals.

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  
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Ministry of Health

Dr. David Williams  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Ministry of Health

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