

April 24, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions

Today's Command Table focused on continued actions to support and protect the province's long-term care homes and critical next steps to stabilize the sector.

Since the launch of the government's [COVID-19 Action Plan for Protecting Long-Term Care Homes](#) on April 15th, key actions have been taken to address the immediate needs of our long-term care homes, beginning with those at greatest risk, and more are planned for deployment in the days ahead. Targeted, on-the-ground measures are already yielding positive results. Twenty long-term care homes, which were previously experiencing outbreaks, are now outbreak-free.

To meet the continued urgent needs of our long-term care homes, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Long-Term Care and Ontario Health are working with providers and partners across the system to redouble operational efforts to support homes and staffing in them. We will continue to focus our actions on:

- Deploying **response teams** to long-term care homes to support urgent human resource (HHR) needs and provide personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPAC) interventions. These teams are composed of health professionals who have put forward their names to provide assistance, from Ontario's Health Workforce Matching portal, recruitment efforts of provincial organizations, the federal government, as well as members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Canadian Armed Forces members have been trained in IPAC interventions and being deployed to five long-term care homes.
- Ongoing implementation of **IPAC interventions**, including IPAC training and measures to support physical distancing in the homes.

We continue to closely monitor the situation in our long-term care homes and this will continue as, and until, homes stabilize.

We thank you for your continued work to support the implementation of our provincial Action Plan in the days and weeks ahead.

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