

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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October 24, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Partners

FROM: **Dr. Bob Bell**
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

RE: Health System Update

Many of you have raised questions regarding the province's enhanced measures to be prepared for Ebola Virus Disease.

We appreciate your contributions to the healthcare system's preparedness to safely contain any imported cases of Ebola. In this evolving situation we are committed to maintaining the confidence of the public, and especially our front-line health care workers, that their health will be protected. To that end, I am providing you with an update on the province's planning activities.

Two Ebola planning tables have been created - an Ebola Advisory Table (EAT), to help identify health system challenges, and an Ebola Command Table (ECT), to inform decisions regarding future Directives and to act as the approval table for Ministry guidance. Both of these groups have now had their first meetings and will continue to meet to address ongoing concerns.

Going forward, there will be consultation with a range of health system partners on future Ministry guidance. A number of priority areas for attention were identified, including:

- An amended Directive #1 will be re-issued early next week, based on your feedback. You can anticipate revisions and additional guidance in areas such as triage protocols and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) selection. We are also awaiting survey results from hospitals to gain a better understanding of supply chain issues that some may be experiencing.
- Additional directives are also under development. An Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and First Responders Directive and a Primary Care Directive are to be issued imminently. Directives will be sent to the target groups' employers and unions, and shared with other key healthcare partners. Please also monitor the ministry website at www.ontario.ca/ebola for information.

- We understand the critical importance of training in our preparedness. We are working closely with the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) to develop training related content and guidance to be used in acute settings, as well as one for EMS and first responders.
- The role and mandate of the designated referral hospitals to treat confirmed cases of Ebola will be further clarified and supported through measures such as planning checklists and transfer protocols.

Both planning tables will continue to meet to address your concerns. **If you have additional questions, please contact the Emergency Management Branch through the Health Care Provider Hotline at 1-866-212-2272 or at Emergencymanagement.moh@ontario.ca.**

Thank you for your contribution and the work of so many teams across the province to ensuring a safe healthcare system for Ontario. I have great confidence in the preparedness work that is being undertaken.



Dr. Bob Bell
Deputy Minister of Health and
Long-Term Care

cc. Dr. David Mowat
Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care