



To: Health System Partners
From: Matthew Anderson, President and CEO
Date: March 4, 2021
Re: Health System Recovery

On behalf of Ontario Health, thank you for your continued partnership and ongoing efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a challenging time for our health system and for the communities you serve, and while our COVID-19 case numbers have declined, we continue to actively monitor and manage a very fluid situation, continuing to optimize care and prepare for the potential for rapid escalation resulting from the variants of concern.

At the same time, we are also looking ahead, partnering with the Ministry of Health in renewing the focus on health system modernization and planning to restore routine access to non-COVID-19 related health care services for all Ontarians, as trends in key public health indicators improve.

To be successful, recovery must be coordinated and build on what we as a system have learned throughout the pandemic across all sectors. This includes progress on system-wide regional planning structures, the provincial lab network, virtual care, supply chain operations, as well as Ontario Health Teams. Our planning must include enhanced access to mental health and addictions services through the Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence. We must also continue to keep top of mind the importance of health equity and the active commitment to enhanced supports for the most vulnerable populations.

In the coming weeks, we will work across the system to continue to build on work to date in planning for and actioning a broader health system recovery that will tackle issues such as the impact of deferred preventive screening, diagnostic, surgical and non-surgical services based on the lessons learned from the pandemic.

Working alongside the Ministry of Health, our shared overarching goal will be to ensure confidence in the safety and accessibility of health services in the province, supporting the system's workforce and minimizing the downstream effects of COVID-19 on the health of Ontarians.

We understand that this forward-looking planning will be challenging as it will happen concurrently with ongoing pandemic response and the commitment to public health measures, however it is necessary and timely to continue efforts to restore and rebalance care in the near future.

We will look forward to your continued guidance and support during this important process and recognize that many of you are involved in Ontario Health regional working groups that have been



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established to restore services to your communities. We will remain in touch on how these efforts are moving forward and how we can continue our work together.

Thank you again for all you are doing. The resilience and flexibility shown by our entire health system has been truly inspiring and reinforces our shared commitment to delivering quality health services to all Ontarians.

Sincerely,

Matthew Anderson