



To: Hospital CEOs
From: Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health
Date: May 4th, 2021
Re: **COVID-19 Response**

This week continues to challenge the health system as hospitalizations and the number of people requiring critical care remain close to all-time highs. While the pandemic case counts seem to be cresting, it is at a very high level and pockets of exponential growth are still occurring. Additionally, we continue to rely heavily on patient transfers to ensure that no hospital becomes overwhelmed while still requiring significant acute care capacity to care for patients during their post-ICU stays.

We all know the risks of letting our guard down too soon and we are requesting that hospitals stay the course on our current ramp down efforts (Directive 2) to ensure that the system is able to rapidly respond to increases in case counts and hospitalizations if needed. We will continue to look for health human resources redeployment opportunities in our hardest-hit hospitals.

At the same time, we recognize the importance of resuming non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures as soon as is appropriate. We continue to closely monitor the situation and are preparing to respond quickly when it is determined that capacity pressures can be safely managed by the system.

Once we see signs of further improvement in case counts, we will be providing guidance to support the planned resumption of surgeries and procedures in a way that is coordinated and balanced across the province, with consideration given to communities that have been hit hardest due to COVID-19.

As always, our Ontario Health regional structures will be integral to this recovery planning and will work closely with hospital partners to implement any actions.

We will continue to maintain regular touchpoints with you and hope to share additional updates related to recovery planning at an Ontario Hospital Association Member Call early in the week of May 10th.

As always, thank you to you and your teams for your continued dedication and commitment to our collective efforts in responding to COVID-19.

Matthew Anderson