

REPORT TO COMMAND TABLE

Collaboration Table Update Thursday, April 2, 2020

Membership

- The ministry has established a Collaboration Table comprising stakeholder associations representing sectors across the continuum of care as well as labour unions and regulatory colleges to provide strategic advice to the Provincial Command Table.
- The Collaboration Table meets weekly with representatives from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Long-Term Care, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, and the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility to provide key ministry and Ontario Health updates, discuss issues and concerns raised by stakeholders and identify potential solutions.

Updated structure

- Members of Collaboration Table were asked to submit suggested agenda topics and questions for discussion prior to the meeting. This feedback/input was provided to speakers in advance of the Collaboration Table to enable the ministry to answer as many of the questions in as much detail as possible during the meeting.
- The Ministry of Health (ministry) has developed a rolling issue tracking document to share with the Collaboration Table members that consolidates issues raised and is shared with program areas for action.

Key themes

- The ministry and Ontario Health provided an update on various initiatives underway including Ontario's current epidemiological data in comparison to other jurisdictions (e.g., BC, Alberta, Quebec) and regional table updates.
- The ministry also provided an update on:
 - initiatives to ensure there is adequate acute and critical care bed capacity (e.g., setting up ancillary sites, decanting ALC patients to alternative settings where possible);
 - efforts to address LTC outbreaks (e.g., issuing updated directives around screening and visitors, introducing new emergency orders to allow greater flexibility around staffing, conducting priority testing);
 - efforts to increase health human resource capacity (e.g., developing an online matching tool of available providers);
 - efforts to increase lab capacity (e.g., clearing backlog, building coordinated lab network, ramping testing up to 10,000 tests/day); and,
 - communications to the public (e.g., ramping up messaging on progressive public health measures and executive orders, paid advertising).

REPORT TO COMMAND TABLE

- The ministry also provided an update on procurement and supply of personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - Stakeholders strongly re-iterated concerns about the need for frontline access to PPE and other equipment and supplies.
 - The ministry spoke to making every effort to secure additional PPE and working closely with the federal government to secure supply for Ontario.
 - The ministry described that PPE will be allocated based on an ethical, risk-based framework developed with the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto. The ministry also described direction provided in a memo issued on Friday which encouraged facilities in need of PPE to contact their regional tables first; if PPE is not available regionally, then the regional table will contact the Ministry Emergency Operations Centre to identify critical needs.
- Other questions raised by stakeholders included:
 - Identifying the testing approach once the testing back-log has cleared;
 - HHR capacity in LTC and retirement homes;
 - PPE received from non-traditional sources and the need to ensure they are up to standards as well as the approach for re-using PPE;
 - Identifying and resolving drug shortages (e.g., for asthma inhalers); and
 - Identifying where Consumption and Treatment Services and home care fall on the PPE priority list.

Next steps

- In response to the issues discussed at the Collaboration Table today (April 2), the ministry is working with our partners to:
 - Follow up on requests made at the meeting; and
 - Review questions which were not answered on the call, so that we can provide responses next week, as best as possible.
- We will again ask for input from stakeholders in advance of next week's call.