

January 18, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO:

Board Chairs and Chief Executive Officers of Ontario Public Hospitals
 Canadian Union of Public Employees
 Ontario Council of Hospital Unions
 Ontario Nurses Association
 Ontario Public Service Employees Union
 Ontario Retirement Communities Association
 Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority
 Services Employees International Union Healthcare
 Unifor

FROM:

Helen Angus
 Deputy Minister
 Ministry of Health

RE:

**Amendments To O. Reg. 74/20 In Relation To Hospital Staff
 Redeployment**

The Government of Ontario has implemented a wide array of measures to protect the health and safety of the people of Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing the necessary supports for Ontario public hospitals to focus on delivering patient care.

Our health care system is facing unprecedented staffing and capacity pressures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of patients who have tested positive for COVID-19, who have been hospitalized with COVID-19, and who require care in intensive care units due to COVID-19 is continuing to escalate. In order to address these challenges, we must continue to do more to work as a single, seamless hospital sector and health care system.

Today, the Government of Ontario has amended O. Reg. 74/20, under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*, to provide hospitals with the ability to redeploy their staff to other hospitals to address the increasing staffing and capacity pressures of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. O. Reg. 74/20 was also amended to authorize hospitals to redeploy staff to retirement homes where there is an increased risk of transmission of COVID-19 among those who live and work in these settings. The amendments would enable hospitals to better support retirement homes through staff redeployment, which would protect some of the most vulnerable Ontarians.

Even with the authority provided by the regulation, hospitals should continue to rely on the regulation only when necessary and rely primarily on staff volunteers.

Thank you for all that you and your organizations are doing to protect the health and safety of the people of Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Helen Angus
 Deputy Minister

- c: Denise Cole, Deputy Minister, Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
 Anthony Dale, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Hospital Association
 Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health
 Bill Hatanaka, Board Chair, Ontario Health