

**Ministry of Health** 

Ministère de la Santé

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of Health, Public Health

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June 10, 2022

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Health Care Providers, Health Care Entities, Ambulance Services

and Paramedics, Hospitals, Psychiatric Facilities, Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes and Regulated Health Professionals

Who Practice in Them

FROM: Dr. Kieran M. Moore

Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario

**RE:** Revocation of CMOH Directives #1, #2.1, #3, #4, and #5

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Our province has come a long way since the start of the pandemic. As part of the plan to live with and manage COVID-19, effective June 11, 2022, Directives #1, #2.1, #3, #4 and #5, issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health ("CMOH"), are revoked. This decision reflects and considers the strong foundation the health sector has built to respond to COVID-19 and the knowledge and expertise that has been developed over the course of the pandemic.

Directives #1, #4, and #5 set out the required personal protective equipment (PPE) for the care of suspect or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the health sector. These practices are now engrained in the health sector and will continue to be supported through Ministry of Health (the ministry) guidance and recommendations. To continue to provide guidance on appropriate PPE for the care of suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients once the Directives are revoked, the ministry has released a new COVID-19

<u>Guidance: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Health Care Workers and Health Care Entities</u> document.

Directive #2.1 was issued in January 2022 to support the provincial hospital system, psychiatric facilities and regulated health professionals who practice within them in responding to the Winter and Spring 2022 waves of COVID-19 infections in the province. The Directive supports these entities in maximizing the use of available resources across hospitals and facilitating patient transfers where necessary. With the improving COVID-19 case loads and decreasing hospitalizations since the peak of the most recent wave of COVID-19 infections, and as hospitals have the necessary tools and networks to support maximizing acute care capacity in current conditions, Directive #2.1 is no longer necessary.

Directive #3 outlines outbreak management measures and routine practices and requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes. Following the revocation of this Directive on June 11, 2022, direction for long-term care homes and retirement homes is outlined in the:

- Minister of Long-Term Care Directive: COVID-19 response measures for longterm care homes, which will maintain critical components of CMOH Directives #1, #3 and #5, and requirements for following the ministry's COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units.
- Advice, guidance and recommendations for the retirement homes sector as per the CMOH Memo issued on June 10, 2022, to the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority under the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*, including direction for following the ministry's <u>COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement</u> Homes for Public Health Units.

The revocation of these CMOH Directives on June 11, 2022, is yet another milestone in the province's plan to integrate the continued management of COVID-19 in the health system's routine operations and to shift away from a provincial emergency response. We will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation in Ontario and keep you apprised of any significant changes to the pandemic response.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and dedication to this critical work.

## Sincerely,

To And

Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC, FCAHS Chief Medical Officer of Health

c: Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Matthew Anderson, President & CEO, Ontario Health Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery Division

Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Health Services
Peter Kaftarian, Assistant Deputy Minister, Hospitals and Capital
Susan Picarello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Health Services Division
Nancy Matthews, Deputy Ministry. Ministry of Long-Term Care
Carlene Alexander, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility