

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Health System Emergency
Management Branch
Population and Public Health
Division
Suite 810, 8th Floor
1075 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M5S 2B1
Telephone: 416-212-0822
Facsimile: 416-212-4466

**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

Direction de la gestion des urgences du
système de santé
Division de la santé de la population et de la santé
publique
Bureau 810, 8^e étage
1075, rue Bay
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Téléphone : 416 212-0822
Télécopieur : 416 212-4466



November 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Partners

FROM: Clint Shingler, Director
Health System Emergency Management Branch

RE: Influenza Season Preparedness & Monitoring

In advance of the expected annual increase in health system demand due to the approaching influenza season, the ministry would like to provide an overview of actions we are taking to help partners mitigate and prepare for health system pressures.

We are currently in the process of developing a Health System Action Plan for this season expected to be released by end of November. The plan will include sector specific resources, planning considerations/expectations and best practices. This document will also include an overview of response actions the health system can expect from the Health System Emergency Management Branch (HSEMB) throughout the influenza season.

HSEMB will be holding its annual Health System Knowledge Exchange Webinar on November 28th with partners from across the Ministry, as well as Public Health Ontario, to provide an overview of process changes from last year and answer any potential questions. An invitation for this webinar will be sent to health system partners later this week.

The ministry plans to rely on existing data sources to monitor health system pressures. In addition to using laboratory data from Public Health Ontario and data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information to track the severity of the influenza season, three surveillance systems will be used to monitor system pressures throughout the influenza season including:

- Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance Application
- Provincial Health Resource System
- Daily Bed Census Data

HSEMB will not request the acute care sector to complete a daily manual survey on the Emergency Management Communications Tool (EMCT), as the three systems mentioned above capture the data needed to help monitor and respond to severe system surges. However, we will continue to encourage all health system partners to post tickets on [EMCT](#) to flag any serious issues that providers are facing.