Ministry of Health

Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health

416 212-3831

Box 12,

Tel.:

Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Fax: 416 325-8412

Ministère de la Santé

Bureau du médecin hygiéniste en chef, santé publique Boîte à lettres 12

Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Tél.: 416 212-3831 Téléc.: 416 325-8412

January 14, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hospitals and Health Care Providers

RE: Health System Coordination of Hospital Patient Transfers

COVID-19 cases are at the highest level since the start of the pandemic and a continued acceleration in cases along with increased hospitalizations, are expected in January 2022.

As the health system faces a surge of hospital admissions from COVID-19 infections, hospital partners and health care providers across the province have been undertaking necessary efforts to redeploy and share existing resources and capacity.

On January 4, 2022, I issued Directive #2 for Health Care Providers requiring the ceasing of all non-emergent or non-urgent surgeries and all non-emergent or non-urgent diagnostic imaging and ambulatory clinical activity in public hospitals. This was to preserve capacity in our hospital system, including health human resources, so that we may continue to provide essential health services to patients during this wave of COVID-19 infections.

Directive #2.1, issued today, builds upon Directive #2 to provide our hospital partners standard principles to follow as they continue to coordinate patient transfers, and share resources within and across hospital facilities to stabilize our health system capacity and maintain health care for as many patients as possible.

We will continue to keep you apprised of changes to Ontario's COVID-19 situation and appreciate your ongoing partnership and dedication to this critical work.

Sincerely,

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