

**Ministry of Health**

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**Ministère de la Santé**

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February 10, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Hospitals and Health Care Providers**

**RE: Resuming Non-Urgent and Non-Emergent Care**

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On February 1, 2022 Directive #2 was revised to signal that our healthcare system was ready and able to begin resuming certain clinical activities while closely monitoring the impact it would have on our healthcare workers, our hospital system, and our overall response against COVID-19.

Today I am revoking Directive #2 to allow the resumption of non-urgent and non-emergent surgeries and procedures in hospitals. To support a cautious and phased resumption of these clinical activities, Ontario Health (OH) is providing operational guidance to the hospital sector in the document *Operational Direction for Optimizing Care: Wave 5*. Hospitals are expected to adhere closely to these guidelines to avoid overwhelming our health system.

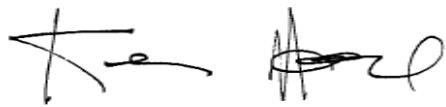
While COVID-19 case incidence, hospitalizations and ICU admissions remain high, there has been a steady decline in these metrics over the last few weeks. There has also been a recent gradual reduction in pressures on hospital capacity in certain areas of the province. With hospital capacity continuing to improve, the province is now in a position to cautiously take the next step to resume non-urgent and non-emergent surgeries and procedures in hospitals.

Until we see a return to normal hospital capacity, resource sharing throughout the hospital system remains necessary to maintain equitable access for all Ontarians to health services. To that end, I am also issuing an updated Directive #2.1 today as there will be a continued need for hospitals to work together to maximize the use of available resources across the health system.

These changes are yet another step in the right direction to resume deferred care in a careful, gradual, and methodical manner while ensuring the stability of our hospital system.

The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the effects of lifting Directive #2 on our hospital systems and will pivot as necessary. We will also 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Moore', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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