

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

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MEMORANDUM TO: Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Association of Management, Administrative and Professional Crown
Employees of Ontario
Association of Ontario Health Centres
Association of Ontario Midwives
Chiefs of Ontario
Federation of Health Regulated Colleges of Ontario
Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres
Ontario Association of Long-Term Care Facilities
Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors
Ontario College of Family Physicians
Ontario Hospital Association
Ontario Medical Association
Ontario Nurses' Association
Ontario Public Health Association
Ontario Public Sector Employees Union
Ontario Safety Association for Community & Healthcare
Public Health Agency of Canada
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
Service Employees International Union

RE: Release of the 2008 Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic

I am pleased to inform you that the 2008 Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP) has been released and is available for downloading on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's web site at www.health.gov.on.ca/pandemic.

As in previous years, the 2008 OHPIP was developed through consultation and input from experts representing a broad spectrum of health stakeholders, including all three levels of government; public health, infectious diseases, and infection control experts; clinicians; and labour unions, professional associations, and health sector regulatory bodies.

The plan continues to evolve year after year and provides a foundation for local planning efforts. The 2008 OHPIP includes updates to existing chapters, as well as new chapters and tools designed to further guide and support pandemic planning across the health system. Key enhancements to the 2008 OHPIP include:

- New details on surveillance and reporting systems to monitor a pandemic;
- Updated information on occupational health and safety and infection prevention and control measures;
- More details on the organization and delivery of influenza-related primary care services, including updated information on early assessment, treatment and referral strategies;
- Revised planning guidelines for laboratories, paediatric services, and long-term care
- Planning guidelines for the provision of services related to chronic kidney disease/ acute kidney injury; and,
- Guidance to assist hospitals in planning for potential blood shortages.

Please take the opportunity to inform your members and key stakeholders about the release of the 2008 OHPIP.

Original signed by

Allison J. Stuart
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Health Division

c: Tiffany Jay, Acting Director, Emergency Management Unit
Dr. David Williams, A/Chief Medical Officer of Health